Discussion Board

Discussion Board is a centralised location for all discussion forums. The Discussion Board can be linked to from anywhere in the Blackboard, but it always appears in the Communication section. Groups can have their own private Discussion Boards with multiple forums.

Both instructors and students can post messages within the forum that others can read. These messages can either begin a new topic or subtopic for discussion, or comment on someone else’s post on a topic.

Postings are "threaded"; that is, replies to the first comment on a topic, and replies to replies are grouped together so that a viewer can see the relationships among the posts.

Forum

A discussion forum is where staff and students can discuss a particular topic. Discussion forums can appear anywhere in a course, but are all listed on the Discussion Board.

The Discussion Board within Blackboard displays:

- **Search** – option to search the content of the discussion forums.
- **Forums** – list of discussion forums you can contribute to.
- **Total Posts** – number of posted threads (entries) related to a specific forum
- **Unread Posts** – number of posted threads (entries) that have not been read.
- **Total Participants** – number of people who have contributed to the discussion forum.

By clicking on one of the discussion forums a screen displaying a list of threads related to the selected discussion forum is displayed.

**Note:** Only instructors can create a forum.
If you do not have any forums displayed check with your instructor.
Thread

A thread (topic) is a discussion forum post and the entire series of replies to that post within a discussion board forum. You can either add a new thread (topic) or continue on the discussion from an existing thread (topic).

The Thread List page contains functions that were in several locations in the prior versions. Clicking on a thread link will display the Thread Detail screen.

Thread Detail

The majority of the changes to the Discussion Board are represented on the Thread Detail page.

- Navigate between posts and threads by clicking Previous/Next Thread and Previous/Next Post links.
- Reply to individual posts.
- Flag selected posts for later reference and Clear Flags.
- Search for messages in the current forum or other forums.
- Collect specific posts in the thread to be displayed on a single page, then sorted, filtered, printed and saved as a document.
Post
A post is a discussion board entry used to start a new thread (topic) or used to post to an existing thread (topic).

Reply to a post
To create a reply post for an existing thread:
1  Click on the specific forum link on the Discussion Board main page.
2  Click on the specific thread link on the thread page.
3  Click on the reply button either
4  Type in the reply message.
5  Add attachments if required.
6  Click on submit when you have finished.
7  Click on the OK button at the thread detail screen to display the thread list screen.
8  Click on the OK button at the thread list screen to display the Discussion Board forum list screen.

Reply to Post

1 Message

Subject: RE: A bit about your lecturer

Message

I have heard you participated in the 2007 Intellects Olympics and are known for your in-depth research.

Attachments

Attachments  Attach a file

3 Submit

Click Save to save a draft of this message. Click Submit to submit the post. Click Cancel to quit.
Create a thread

To create a new thread:
1. Click on the thread icon on the thread list screen toolbar to display the Add Thread screen.
2. Type in a meaningful subject title and add your message.
3. Add an attachment if required.
4. Click on the submit button when you have finished.