

Discussion Board Participation

Discussion forums are expected to focus on the discussion topic. The tone and language used in all forms of communications are expected to be professional, considerate and courteous. Before sending your message, ask yourself if you would speak in the same tone in a face to face conversation with your peers or your professor.

To receive credit for the Discussion Board you must start your response with an Original Thread.

Discussion Board participation dates are listed. Please post your responses ONLY during the dates listed.

All students will be required to actively participate in the discussion boards. Students are required to respond initially to the discussion board question by initiating an Original Thread. Students are expected to contribute to the discussion on a minimum of three different days while the discussion board is active. In addition students are expected to participate in the discussion by responding to their peers' postings at least two times while the discussion board is active. The responses should be substantive not just "great point, nice job, way to go." Students should contribute to discussions using research, clinical expertise, and by expressing their opinions in a professional manner.

[See the discussion board grading matrix. You will receive a grade for each discussion board based on this grading matrix. Be sure to comply with each aspect below regarding, content, and number of postings as well as the required days of posting.](#)

Discussion Board Grading Matrix

Your grade for the discussion board will be calculated as follows. Your initial response (original thread) to the DB question will be graded and is worth 50% of the final DB grade. The two best, referenced responses to classmates will be graded and averaged and will be worth 50% of the final DB grade. Points will be deducted from that grade as needed for items 3 and 4.

1. Initial response/post on the DB

The 'A' Response

- Well researched and documented, well written and organized, complete, answers the question asked when appropriate.
- Shares personal experiences in the subject area that further clarifies the discussion.

- References the current professional literature as found in professional nursing and education journals, not web sites or just the text or assigned readings.
- **It is necessary to have a reference from the current professional literature to qualify for an “A”. However, citing a recent article does not guarantee a grade of A.**

The ‘B’ Response

- Some research and documentation (only cites text, required readings or web site materials), written in an understandable manner but not completely organized.
- Addresses the question asked but does not completely answer the question

The ‘C’ Response

- Response does not address the question asked, is disorganized, and difficult to follow,
- No evidence of research, no documentation

2. Responses to classmates are substantive

The ‘A’ Response

- Further clarifies classmate’s posting and adds to the substance of the contribution with researched (cites the current professional literature) and documented response, or critiques the contribution in a positive manner with researched and documented posting.
- Shares personal experiences in the subject area that further clarify the topic.
- Well written easy to follow.
- **It is necessary to have a reference from the current professional literature to qualify for an “A”. However, citing a recent article does not guarantee a grade of A.**

The ‘B’ Response

- Further clarifies classmate’s posting and adds to the substance of the contribution utilizing limited research and documentation in the area (only cites text, web site or assigned readings) or critiques contribution in a positive manner with limited research and documentation.
- Written in an understandable manner but not completely organized.

The ‘C’ Response

- Does not clarify nor critique posting.
- Disorganized response

3. Responds to a minimum of two classmates’ postings

Responds to only one classmate → minus 10 points

Does not respond to any classmates → minus 20 points

4. Posts to the Discussion Board a minimum of three different days

Posts on only two days → minus 10 points

Posts on only one day → minus 20 points

In summary, you must respond to the DB question with an original thread. Think of this response as a “mini paper”. The response should be well written and well referenced. You want to answer all parts of the question. Your response should be made by the Tuesday of the week that the DB opens.

While the DB is active, you also want to respond to a minimum of two of your classmates' original threads. Your response should be substantive and either expands upon the original thread or critique the original thread. Be sure to reference your opinions and comments.

In order for all of us to benefit from the active participation of all members of the class you are required to post on a minimum of three days while the discussion board is active. Try to post early in the week, mid-week and late in the week. By spreading out these postings we should have a lively and interesting discussion for the entire week.

These discussions are an opportunity for you to demonstrate your scholarly approach to the course materials and your ability to think critically about the question and the material itself.

Additionally, you may post additional comments, questions etc. that are meant to clarify an area for you or expand on your own thoughts about the materials.