

Netiquette Guidelines for Online Discussions

Netiquette is a set of rules for Internet communication. There are many different cultures in this world and cyberspace is one of them. As with any culture, there are some things that we do in our culture that is not appropriate in another culture.

Online discussion can be used for several different purposes, such as student seminars, role-playing, reviewing classmates' assignments, or answering a question.

When to Post and Reply

- Respond as directed by your instructor. You may be asked to respond to a question or prompt before reading other posts, or to read all posts first.
- Follow your instructor's rubric for your responses. Expect exemplary work from yourself and others.
- Use academic writing in your posts.
- Reference your sources.

Add Substance to the Discussion

- Expand on the ideas of the post to which you are responding; ask questions; include a personal experience; refer to a reading.
- Brevity is appreciated. Keep your answers clear and concise. Write your answers in Text Edit or MS Word, re-read and edit before posting.
- Short replies, such as "I agree," or "Good point" are not acceptable replies. They do not add depth and clutter up the discussion board.
- When replying to a post, remove the extraneous information from previous posts. Instead, summarize, refer to, or quote the part of the post to which you are responding.

Tone and Courtesy

- Humor is difficult to convey online and can be misinterpreted.
- Be nice and respectful. Refrain from inappropriate language and personal attacks.
- Disagree with ideas and avoid challenges that may be interpreted as a personal attack.
- Assume the best intentions of others and expect the best from yourself.