

Set-Up Techniques for Enhanced Student Engagement

In this document you will find explanations and sample instructions for various approaches to the design of online student participation in discussion board activities.

Method 1: Class-wide Post & Discussion

The Post & Discussion assignment is the simplest way to utilize a discussion board. As the instructor, you come up with one or more discussion questions designed to foster meaningful dialog about the content. Students are then asked to respond to these questions. A class-wide discussion follows.

INSTRUCTION SAMPLE: **Post & Discussion**



Class-wide Discussion

- > **Opens:** Monday, 5pm (local time)
- > **Closes:** Saturday, 11:55pm (local time)

After watching the video, individually discuss the question provided below. Additional questions will be posted by your professor throughout the week. Read the responses of your classmates and thoughtfully reply to at least two posts. Additional comments should follow.

TECHNIQUE TIP: **Post & Discussion**



- Ensure that questions provoke discussion and are not simply answered by a "yes or no" response.
- Professor posts a wrap-up at the end of discussion for class-wide review

Method 2: Cold-Calling (Group or Individual)

Rather than having every student turn in a response to a prompt or assignment, tell students ahead of time that you will be “cold-calling” a select groups of students to post their material. This way, all students will be prepared and caught up on their work, and will learn from the feedback you give on those that are called.

INSTRUCTION SAMPLE: Individual Cold-Calling



This discussion involves individual cold-calling. Using the lesson from the week, individually solve for the 3 problems provided. Two groups of students will be cold-called. The first set of four students will post solutions and the second set of four will critique the solutions posted. A class-wide announcement will be posted by Monday at midnight with the names of students being cold-called.

- by **Tuesday 8pm (Eastern Time)** selected students should post their solutions
- by **Thursday 8pm (Eastern Time)** selected students should post their critique
- Student not called on specifically should comment individually **Thursday-Friday**
- **Saturday at 11:55pm (Eastern Time)** the forum will close
- **Sunday morning** the professor will provide a wrap-up and the correct solution to each problem

INSTRUCTION SAMPLE: Group Cold-Calling



All Groups

Post a summary of your discussion to the class-wide discussion forum linked above by **Tuesday at 11:55pm (Eastern Time)**. Use your group space to discuss the assigned question below:

- Groups 1 and 2: Question #1
- Groups 3 and 4: Question #2
- Groups 5 and 6: Question #3
- Groups 7 and 8: Question #4

Cold-Called Students*

If you have been chosen by your professor as a cold call responder, you are asked to a respond to a particular question. You must read both group posts to that question and then make your own comments. Post your comments to the class-wide discussion forum linked

above by **Thursday** at **11:55pm** (*Eastern Time*).

* **Note:** Specific students will be cold called in an announcement posted no later than Tuesday at midnight (*Eastern Time*).

All Individuals

Individual comments should follow group posting Friday and Saturday. The discussion ends on **Saturday** at **midnight** (*Eastern Time*).

TECHNIQUE TIP: Cold-Calling



- When an assignment includes cold-calling, make a note of it in your syllabus
- Keep a record of the names of individuals you cold-called and rotate your selection throughout the course
- Have the full class discuss comments on the postings
- Post a wrap-up for class wide review

Method 3: Group Posting

Groups of three to five students are assigned a case, topic, or assignment to discuss. The group members analyze the challenge and agree on a final answer privately in group space (like Google Drive or a private discussion forum in Moodle). One member of the group is then selected to post the groups findings to the class-wide discussion forum.

INSTRUCTION SAMPLE: **Group Posting**



Assigned Groups:

In your learning groups, create a collective response to the assigned discussion question based on the group assignments below. Post it to the class-wide discussion forum. Individual participation to follow group postings.

Group 1: Post a response to question #1.

>> due on or before **Tuesday at 11:55pm** (Eastern Time)

Group 2: Post a response to question #2.

>> due on or before **Tuesday at 11:55pm** (Eastern Time)

Group 3: Post a response to question #3.

>> due on or before **Thursday at 11:55pm** (Eastern Time)

Group 4: Post a response to question #4.

>> due on or before **Thursday at 11:55pm** (Eastern Time)

Individuals:

Read the responses for all other groups. Post a thoughtful reply to at least one other group. Individual comments should follow group posting Thursday - Friday. The discussion ends **Friday at midnight** (local time).

TECHNIQUE TIP: **Group Posting**



- Well ahead of time, publish group membership
- Clearly define what is expected in the group summary or final answer
- Post a wrap up for class-wide review

Method 4: Group Post and Critique

Divide class into groups of three to five students. Assign half of the groups a Group Posting (discussed above), and have the other be “critique” groups. When the assignment groups have posted their findings, each “critique” groups analyze a particular group’s response privately. They then post the critique for the class to review.

INSTRUCTION SAMPLE: Group Post and Critique



Groups 1-3

Post a summary of your discussion to the class-wide discussion questions below by **Tuesday** at 11:55pm (local time).

Group 1 >> Answers Question #1

Group 2 >> Answers Question #2

Group 3 >> Answers Question #3

Group 4-6

Provide feedback and post it to the class-wide discussion forum by **Wednesday** at 11:55pm (local time).

Group 4 >> Provides feedback and comments for Group 1's posting

Group 5 >> Provides feedback and comments for Group 2's posting

Group 6 >> Provides feedback and comments for Group 3's posting

All Individuals

Individual comments should follow group posting Thursday-Friday. The discussion ends **Friday** at 11:55pm (local time).

TECHNIQUE TIP: Group Post & Critique



- Include a method for peers to assess how well their fellow group members participated.
- Do another Group Post and Critique activity in a later module, with the group roles reversed
- Post a wrap-up for class-wide review highlighting the outstanding posts as an example for moving forward.

h

