Discussion Guidelines

Your instructor's role in the discussion will be to let you know when you are on or off track in following the assignment directions and in providing useful feedback to you and your classmates.

Please follow the guideline below to complete all the discussion activities in the course unless otherwise noted.

- Please note that discussion initial responses and comments on classmates' posts have <u>different due dates</u>. The initial responses are due earlier, so the class has enough time to review and comment on each other's posts. This is to ensure that you are fully engaged in discussions, as you would be in a live classroom.
- Your initial response will be submitted without you being able to see other posts. Once you have submitted your initial response, you will be able to view your classmates' posts.
- Please comment on the *ideas* of your peers, rather than on your peers.
- Be open to new ideas and use correct terminology.
- Refer to [Writing Forum Posts and Responses](#) to understand how to participate in online discussions.
- Follow the [communication netiquette](#).

Quantity
- Post at least thrice: one initial response and comments on at least two other posts.
- Post in the discussion forum throughout the module (not posted all on one day or only at the beginning or only at the end of the module).
- Remember to check back and monitor the discussion by answering questions and asking further questions.

Length
- All postings should be succinct, clear, and purposeful.
- The initial response should be 200-400 words.
- The comment on another student should be 150-250 words.

Quality
- All discussion postings should be your original work.
- All postings should demonstrate an in-depth reflection on and synthesis of the readings and the videos presented in the course materials.
- Viewpoints and interpretations should be insightful and well supported. Clear examples should be provided, where applicable.
- Comments on peer posts should stimulate further discussion by building on peer responses.
- The initial response should address all the questions in the discussion prompt.
- Be sure to cite all sources following proper citation guidelines.**

**NOVA Library has more specific help on how to [cite sources and avoid plagiarism](#).