

Environmental Science - Discussion Board Guidelines

A discussion board is a “space” where students can further delve into course content. It offers individuals room to explore topics, issues, and/or questions. The discussion board:

- allows time for in-depth reflection as students have more time to reflect, research & compose their thoughts before participating in the discussion;
- facilitates learning by allowing students to view & to respond to the work of others; and
- develops critical thinking & writing skills.

Participation in discussion boards is not optional and your contribution will be graded. You will be evaluated primarily on your grasp of the subject, your quality of writing, and your timeliness.

Please take a minute or two to review your post before you submit. You may have very intelligent points to make, but if your writing is poor, the ideas will get lost.

- **Initial post to be made by [Day 3 of the week].** You will not be able to read what anyone else in the class has to say until you have made your first post.
 - This post must contain factual information which is supported by legitimate source(s). Any statements, suggestions, opinions, etc. you include should be backed up with unbiased resources.
 - The post should be at least two paragraphs long and include your reference(s). You do not need to use any formal citation style. A web link is sufficient; hyperlink preferred. If you did not obtain your information from the internet, provide the book/article title, author, and date.
 - The very first line of your message should be your title of the post.
- **Subsequent posts**
 - **Comments are due by [Day 5 of the week]**
 - Comment on at least one of your classmate’s initial post.
 - Comments should be about one paragraph long and should be more than just “I agree” comments. Your comments should help to further the discussion. Asking questions is a good way to do this.
 - **Replies due by [Day 7 of the week]**
 - Reply to **at least one person** who commented on your original post.
 - These posts should answer any questions asked and should also help to further the conversation.
 - These posts should be at least two sentences to one paragraph long.
 - You may make as many additional posts as you want, as long as they are in keeping with the topic. And remember: **post early and post often!!**

Participate: This is a shared learning environment. No lurking in the cyberspace background. It is not enough to login and read the discussion thread of others. For the maximum benefit to all, everyone must contribute. It is a great way to get to know your classmates as well!

Report Glitches: Discussion forums are electronic. They break. If for any reason you experience difficulty participating, please call, email, or otherwise inform me of the issue. Chances are others are having the same problem.

- **Integrity** – NOVA students exemplify honesty and a respect for truth in all their dealings.
- **Community** – NOVA students honor and value their community.
- **Civility** – NOVA students show respect for each other, for property, and for all members of the community.
- **Accountability** – NOVA students are given and accept a high level of responsibility as role models.
- **Academic Integrity** – NOVA students exemplify honesty and integrity in all their academic work.