What’s New: Discussions

Discussions have been updated in two primary ways: the Thread Detail page has been thoroughly redesigned while maintaining all of its current functionality. New functionality has been added to support specific pedagogical needs for the use of discussions.

What’s New:

- **All posts on one page:** The entire discussion thread appears on a single page, thereby maintaining the context of the post and replies to one another. Larger avatars help you easily identify the author.

- **Avatars:** The user profile avatars are more prominent in the new Discussions.

- **Role highlighting:** Posts made by forum managers and moderators now contain the user’s course role and forum role.

- **Inline replies:** When replying to a post, the content editor used to write a response appears on the same page, in the context of the discussion.

- **Post First setting:** This forum setting allows instructors to require students to post to a discussion before seeing other students’ posts.

Essentials:

The Post First setting only applies at the forum level, not the thread level. This means that Post First is NOT an option when students are NOT permitted to create threads.

Best Practice(s):

Best use practices in using the discussion tool include:

- Introductory / Ice break discussion;
- Post ideas for projects and papers, and ask students to weigh in;
- Share initial thoughts about a topic before it is discussed in-depth in individual blogs;
- Express opinions to help divide students into work groups.

It is also recommended that you provide a grading form/rubric for discussion activity. For more information on using rubrics for discussions, please contact your Instructional Consultant.

Additional Resources:

- [Blackboard Learn Quick Hit: Discussions](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1m22s) (YouTube | 1 m 22 s)