



Canvas Tips for Students

Online Discussions

Canvas provides a discussions system for courses, allowing both professors and students to contribute to topics. Discussions are a part of many online courses. Like assignments, discussions are typically graded and have due dates.

Your professor may place discussions in modules. He or she may also enable the Discussions link in the navigation bar. In Module view, you can see the availability date, due date, and points value.

Discussion title Due date Points value

Week One -- Ch. 15 -- Reconstruction		
Checklist for Week One		
DQ3, Ch. 15	Jan 12	40 pts
Homework #1	Jan 12	10 pts
Summative Quiz		0 pts

Discussion in Modules view

In Discussions view, you can only see the availability date and due date; you cannot see the points value in this view.

The screenshot shows the 'Discussions' section of a learning management system. On the left is a sidebar with links: Home, Modules, Grades, Assignments, Discussions (highlighted in blue), and Quizzes. The main area has a search bar labeled 'Search title, body, or author' and buttons for 'Unread' and 'Assignments'. Below this is a 'Discussions' header with a dropdown arrow. A table lists two discussions:

Discussion title	Availability	Due date
DQ16, Course Wrap-Up	Not available until Apr 18	Due May 3 at 11:00pm
DQ15, Ch. 23	Not available until Apr 11	Due Apr 19 at 11:00pm

Red arrows point from the labels 'Discussion title' and 'Due date' to the corresponding columns in the table. Red boxes highlight the discussion titles and due dates in the table.

Discussions screen

Click on the discussion in which you need to participate.

Discussions are often set up so that you must create an original post and reply to classmates' posts. To create an original post, read the instructions that your professor wrote and click Reply just below the instructions text.

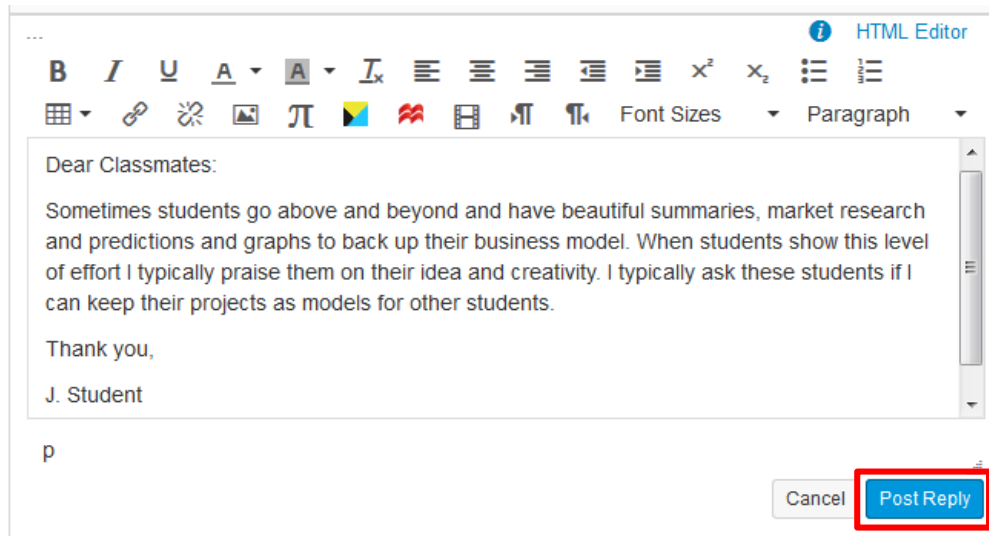
The screenshot shows a specific discussion forum post. At the top, it says 'This is a graded discussion: 10 points possible' and 'due Nov 7, 2015'. The title is 'Discussion Forum 4: Using Feedback' with a '60 61' badge. The instructions read: 'Using your course as a reference, provide an example case where you would provide feedback to a student. Also post two examples of the feedback you might provide in that case: one indicating the student had done well, the second indicating the student might not have understood the material. This discussion is worth 10 points. Please consult the grading rubric for guidelines. You should post a minimum of three times, one an original post, two additional posts replying to your peers.' Below the instructions is a control bar with 'Search entries or author', 'Unread', expand/collapse icons, and a 'Subscribe' button. At the bottom, a 'Reply' button with a left-pointing arrow is highlighted with a red box.

Reply to create original post

The Reply field becomes a text editor. This is where you will enter your original post, answering your professor's question. Enter your response in this field. Be sure to use good online etiquette, like beginning with a salutation, and signing your name.

Note: If you have a lot of text to include, you may find it easier to copy and paste from a word processing program like Microsoft Word or Google Docs.

When you are finished, click Post Reply.



The screenshot shows an HTML Editor window with a toolbar at the top containing various formatting icons like bold, italic, underline, and font color. Below the toolbar is a text area containing the following text:

Dear Classmates:

Sometimes students go above and beyond and have beautiful summaries, market research and predictions and graphs to back up their business model. When students show this level of effort I typically praise them on their idea and creativity. I typically ask these students if I can keep their projects as models for other students.

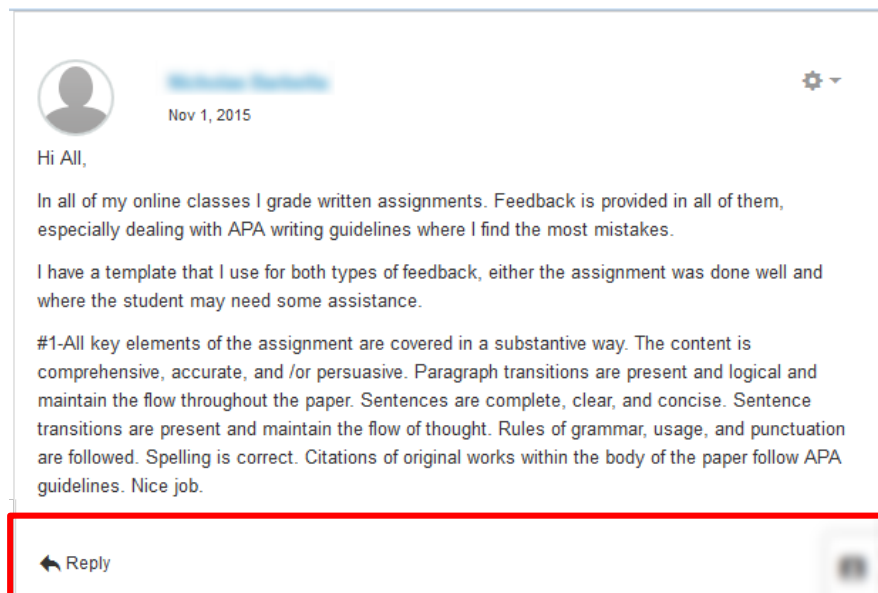
Thank you,

J. Student

At the bottom right of the editor, there are two buttons: "Cancel" and "Post Reply". The "Post Reply" button is highlighted with a red rectangular box.

Original post

You may be asked to comment on classmates' original posts after you've created your own. Scroll down to view classmates' original posts. When you've located a post to which you wish to reply, click the Reply field below the post.



The screenshot shows a post from a classmate. At the top, there is a profile picture placeholder, a name (blurred), and the date "Nov 1, 2015". The text of the post reads:

Hi All,

In all of my online classes I grade written assignments. Feedback is provided in all of them, especially dealing with APA writing guidelines where I find the most mistakes.

I have a template that I use for both types of feedback, either the assignment was done well and where the student may need some assistance.








#1-All key elements of the assignment are covered in a substantive way. The content is comprehensive, accurate, and /or persuasive. Paragraph transitions are present and logical and maintain the flow throughout the paper. Sentences are complete, clear, and concise. Sentence transitions are present and maintain the flow of thought. Rules of grammar, usage, and punctuation are followed. Spelling is correct. Citations of original works within the body of the paper follow APA guidelines. Nice job.











At the bottom of the post, there is a red rectangular box highlighting a "Reply" button, which is represented by a left-pointing arrow and the word "Reply".

Reply to classmate

As when you created your original post, enter your response and click Post Reply.

HTML Editor

B *I* U A A I_x      x^2 x_2  

          Font Sizes Paragraph

Nick,

The feedback you are giving here is substantive. And if one has feedback prepared that can be pasted in for students, we're able to semi-individualize the comments - the feedback is the same for each student depending on what they've submitted, but it is targeted toward an individual.

Thank you,

J. Student

Cancel

Post Reply

Post reply to classmate