Blackboard’s New Discussion Tool

Improved Discussion Features

Blackboard has redesigned their Discussions tool which adds welcomed features while maintaining all of its current functionality.

- New look and feel to the discussion forums
- Large avatars/profile picture - easily identify classmates and instructors while building a class community (How to Add an Avatar)
- View all posts within a thread on a single page
- ability to collapse/expand
- New Content Editor when submitting a post or reply
  - Embed rich media
  - Create a video post using Video Everywhere.
- Post comments as usual
- **Post First Feature** - Instructors can enable this setting to require that students submit their own response to the forum’s prompt prior to being able to see/read what other students have posted to the forum. (Note: when selecting this option, Blackboard will automatically make other decisions about the settings for that forum (e.g. students won’t be able to delete or edit their posts.)

**Forum Settings**

- **Viewing Threads/Replies**
  - Standard View
  - Participants must create a thread in order to view other threads in the forum.
  - Participants are required to create a thread in order to view other threads in the forum; they cannot delete or edit their own posts, and cannot post anonymously. These options are set by the instructor.

- **Grade**
  - File Grading in Forum
  - Grade Discussion Forum: Points possible
  - Grade Threads

- **Subscribe**
  - Can set allow subscriptions
  - Allow members to subscribe to threads
  - Allow members to unsubscribe from threads
  - Hide body of posts in email
  - Hide links to post

- **Create and Edit**
  - Allow Anonymous Posts
  - Allow/Hide the Due Date
  - Allow Members to Create New Threads
  - Allow File Attachments
  - Allow Users to Reply with Quotes
  - Force Moderation of Posts

- **Additional Options**
  - Allow Post Tagging
  - Allow Members to Make Posts

Need more help? Contact the ITS Service Desk.