

What Are Three Proven Ways to Manage My Online Discussion Board and Actively Engage Students?

Presented by:

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Nathan Pritts, PhD is a professor and lead faculty in the Center for the Enhancement of the First Year Experience at Ashford University. He brings expertise in business communication, advertising & marketing, and online user experience to the General Education classroom to maximize student learning and heighten engagement, infusing curriculum with foundational outcomes bolstered by clear ties to a student's academic and career path.



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Are Discussion Boards Out of Control?



The struggle to connect

- A buildup of logistical tasks
- Infinite scroll + shallow engagement

...affecting teachers and students alike!



Take Control!

Break past burnout and make the discussion board a place **students** are eager to go and a place **instructors** can forge a community of learners and share rich layers of course content!

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Discussions OPTIMIZED!



// How to manage your discussion board and take it to the next level of student engagement and success //

- 1) Modeling engagement
- 2) Fostering community
- 3) Sharing expertise



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Three Ways to Manage and Engage



Modeling Engagement

- Understand the deadlines
 - Assess the workflow
 - Determine a schedule

Understand the student perspective, and allow it to merge with your own requirements as well as your own reality – then create a system and trust it.



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Interaction Tracker

Discussion Topic: _____

Students	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
A, Student	X			
B, Student		X		X
C, Student			X	X



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Three Ways to Manage and Engage



Fostering Community

- Address and expand
- Identify and forge connections
- Question, push, direct

Recognize when you're talking to one student and when you can expand to address the class, bring students together, and explicitly reference the aims of the community of learners!



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Three Ways to Manage and Engage



Sharing Expertise

- Nuanced: dig deeper
- Enriched: multimedia, hyperlink, audio, video
- Broadened: knowledge, skills, abilities

Engage in a critical manner, asking questions to push students to a deeper consideration of the subject matter at hand while acknowledging instances of sharp thinking. This leads students toward a more complete understanding of the core concepts.



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Discussion Optimization

Work on the discussion board shouldn't be draining, or purely operational.

By creating a plan, you'll organize your workflow and your mental attention.

Through connecting to the community of learners in your class, you'll create deeper buy-in, which leads to engagement.

When you use your replies to increase the instructional content of the class using multimedia, you'll transform the board into a more dynamic space.

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Thank you!

Tell us what you think:



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/online-class-discussions-3ways>