

DISCUSSION GUIDELINES

These could replace the current in all syllabi before the discussion rubric Master.

A. Discussion Board Guidelines

Discussion forums are meant to promote an *exchange* of ideas, perspectives, and material you have learned. Postings to the discussion board are graded using the scoring rubric included in course materials (refer to next section of this syllabus). Your final grade for participation in the discussion forum will reflect the sum of the points received for your participation in each of the discussion forums.

The discussion board format allows the opportunity for additional learning experiences of ideas, issues, and problems related to course content and its application to **NUR 4165 Nursing Research**. Participation is an important expectation of this course. Students are expected to offer comments, questions, and replies to the discussion question that have been posted throughout the course. The instructor's role is that of an observer and facilitator. The instructor will be reading all messages and will participate in the discussion as appropriate.

Stay involved with your classmates! Reading, comments, and discussion on any of the topics enrich the learning for yourself and others. You have a myriad of real-life experiences and resources to share! Remember each student is a unique individual. The following points should be considered:

- Keep an open mind in order to comprehend other points of view; if necessary, disagree in a friendly way, stating why you disagree and encouraging good-natured discussion.
- Speak your mind freely but do not monopolize the discussion.
- Interaction is vital. Discussion is not directed toward the instructor but to the group. The instructor serves only as a catalyst so responsibility for discussion rests with the group.
- Respect the group. Everyone in the group has some area in which they excel via information, skill, or experience. Remember that all of us are smarter than one of us.
- Maintain confidentiality during the discussions, regarding names of patients and team members and discussion surrounding particular aspects of patient care or particular agencies.
- Make sure you identify yourself when you are posting on the Discussion Board. Address your classmate by name and sign all postings.
- Use proper grammar and avoid abbreviations.
- Forums will be available a few days prior to the Module they are due. Postings and responses are due as outlined in the evaluation criteria. Remember **a minimum of 3 substantial postings (one or two full paragraphs each) is required for each forum**.
- The first (posting) is for your discussion of the question(s) (description of the causes/reasons) with a minimum of two references and the second and third (responses) are the follow-up as part of the discussion between members. References are required in replies.
- Those received by the due date and time will be evaluated and points awarded. The earlier in the Module that you post, the more opportunity for others to reply. You must post your own information before replying to peers.
- Participation in the discussion board forums is required. The discussion board assignment will be worth a total of 50 points each (Module) forum.

Discussion Board Evaluation Criteria

Postings: Postings will be evaluated on the quality of the postings. Areas to be evaluated include (see evaluation criteria and rubric):

- Responses to assigned discussion question: made in a timely fashion giving others ample opportunity to respond
- Evidence of critical thinking

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- Response to peers: Postings that state, “Yes, I agree with your posting”, “I enjoyed reading the posting”, “You did a great job.” Do NOT count and NO points will be awarded.
- Readings and resources
- Grammar and Style including proper APA citation of references is required and will be strictly enforced

NOTE: Discussion at a critical level means discussing things such as your opinion and analysis of the point mentioned, why you hold that opinion, how you see the point as being consistent or inconsistent with what you have learned so far, implications for the future, and so forth.

Critiquing an article/reference material means analyzing the good and/or bad aspects of the material and justifying your analysis. **Do not use quotes from any source or author.** The use of quotes just tells us what the author/reference material states. Summarize or paraphrase in your own words and cite properly using APA Style for any references used in discussion. This allows your colleagues to locate the information. **This also eliminates plagiarism.**