

Discussion Board Rules & Expectations

1. Grammar! This is a college level course. All communication, discussion posts, and homework assignments are expected to be composed in a way that shows your communication skills are proofed, edited, and evaluated critically BEFORE submission. Some common examples:

- a. Not capitalizing the "I" and writing in shorthand: i agree with Piaget's theory bc she is like a totally awesome theorist. CAPITALIZE THE LETTER "I"!
- b. Misuse of common words: (there, their, they're)
- c. Using texting slang: lol, etc.

2. Affirmation of others: This is supportive, but not discussion that can be graded. As the instructor, I should really be the ONLY one to determine what is a great post.

Example: Great post Juanito! You did a great job of explaining that! I think the same thing, and used the same examples!

3. Solid agreement with no additional analysis: This item relates to affirmation. Agreement is okay, but must be followed with additional relevant discussion. Your post must give me something to grade that shows your understanding of the course content.

DO: I agree with Sandra's perception of bullying as a social problem and the discussion of the conflict theory. Additionally, one could also view this social issue through the lens of the functionalist perspective... etc.

DON'T: I agree with everything Sandra said. I really liked her explanation. I never thought about bullying that way. Awesome job Sandra, I look forward to reading more of your posts!

4. Disagreement without explanation: It is great to disagree, but the post must focus on why your perspective differs from that of others. You need to qualify your own opinion or understanding with evidence from the text and persuade the reader why your ideas should be considered as an alternative. Never disparage or criticize another student's work. If they are struggling with a concept, or need to work on their grammar, it is my responsibility to give that feedback privately. Being critical of other's work is a great way to get dropped from the course.

DO: I disagree with Katie's description of Skinner's operant conditioning and how that might apply to sleep habits. The textbook illustrated how this method might achieve the desired goal... etc.

DON'T: Katie, your post doesn't make any sense. You are way off base and you might try reading the textbook before posting. Better luck next time. And by the way, capitalize the letter "I" for goodness sake!

5. Personal disclosure: Self-disclosure can help build community in the class but needs to remain relevant to the course content. For example, some students have shared relationship issues, family history, and other concerns related to the topic of the week - and that is okay, as long as it stays on point. Be careful responding to posts of this nature, however, as it can quickly turn into a "me-too!" situation where the discussion becomes unfocused and leaves no content to grade. For example:

a. "Oh my goodness, I went through EXACTLY the same thing! Let me tell you my story....." OR

"Hey, I also have a spouse who is deployed and I know what that is like. My kids are doing....."

b. Advice giving: "Marisol, I would dump that guy because it sounds like he is not treating you right! My boyfriend is super respectful of my time with my girlfriends, and you need that too!"