

Discussion Board Reboot: From “Did you do the reading” Assessments to Active Learning Discussions

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Learning Objectives

- Compare/Contrast course assessments and learning activities
- Explore different activities that scaffold learning, build community, and lead to critical thinking
- Design discussion activities that promote learner-to-learner and learner-to-instructor interactions

1. Compare/Contrast course assessments and learning activities.

Course Assessments	Learning Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirm learner progress and mastery• Measure the accomplishment of the objectives• Align with course/module-level objectives, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote engagement and active learning• Promote achievement of objectives• Align with course/module-level objectives, etc.

A. Question for the Whole Group:

Is the discussion board prompt below a course assessment or a learning activity?

Module One Discussion

Module One Objective:

- Discuss the concept of Active Learning.

Module One Discussion Prompt:

- Read Gouldian, F. (May 13, 2019) [“What is Active Learning? And Why It Matters”](#) ViewSonic.
- In 500+ words, discuss the major points in the reading. Post by 9 pm on Monday.
- Respond to at least 3 peers by 9 pm on Thursday.

2. Brainstorm different “discussion” activities that scaffold learning, build community, and lead to critical thinking.

3. Design discussion activities that promote learner-to-learner and learner-to-instructor interactions.

A. Small Group Brainstorm

- Share discussion board prompts/learning activities that encourage learner-to-learner engagement (they “work”)
- Brainstorm activity ideas that encourage active, higher-order learning and interactions
- Brainstorm instructor interactions