



Integrating Experiential Learning Communities for Active Learning into Online Courses

QM Connect 2023

Advancing Innovation Through Design and Strategy

Conversation that Matters



Introductions



Amy Grincewicz, PhD
agrincew@kent.edu
Director of ID – ACCBE
Kent State University
QM Research Colleague
QM OH CRM



Christine Cranford
clcranfo@ncsu.edu
Instructional Designer
NC State University
Digital Learning and
Learning Technologies
Applications (DELTA)



Bob Ertischek, JD
bob@yellowdig.com
Head of Client Success
Yellowdig

Session Learning Outcomes

1

Identify strategies for adding unprompted learning communities to support active learning.

2

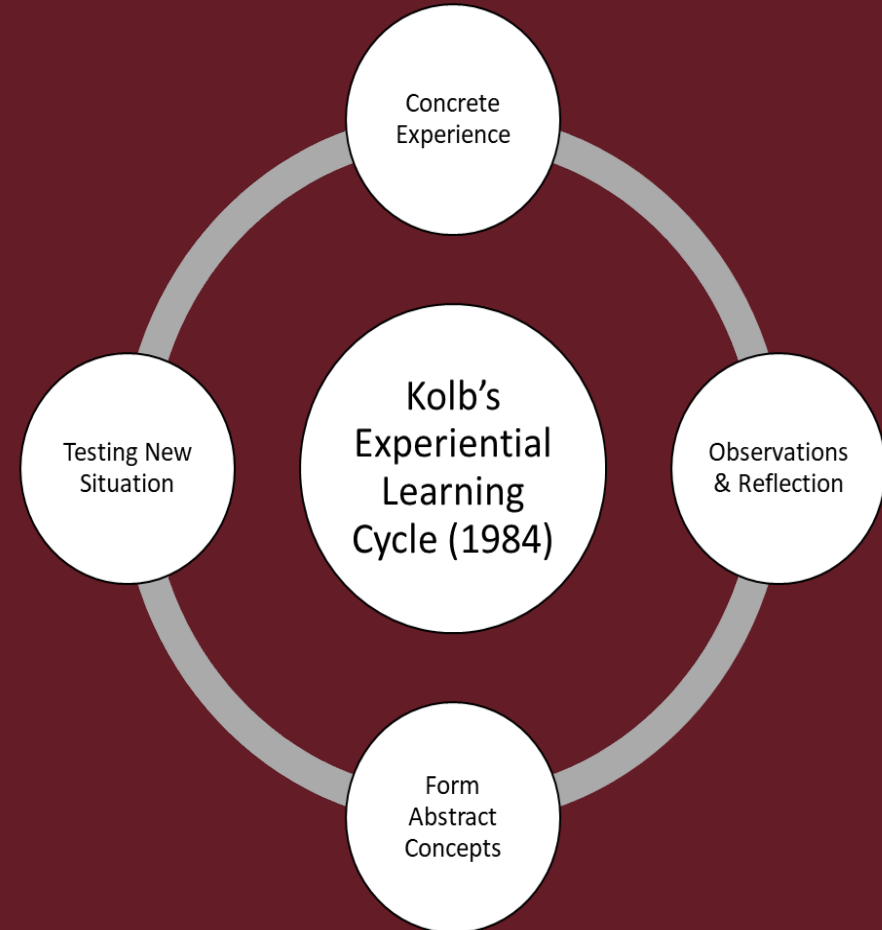
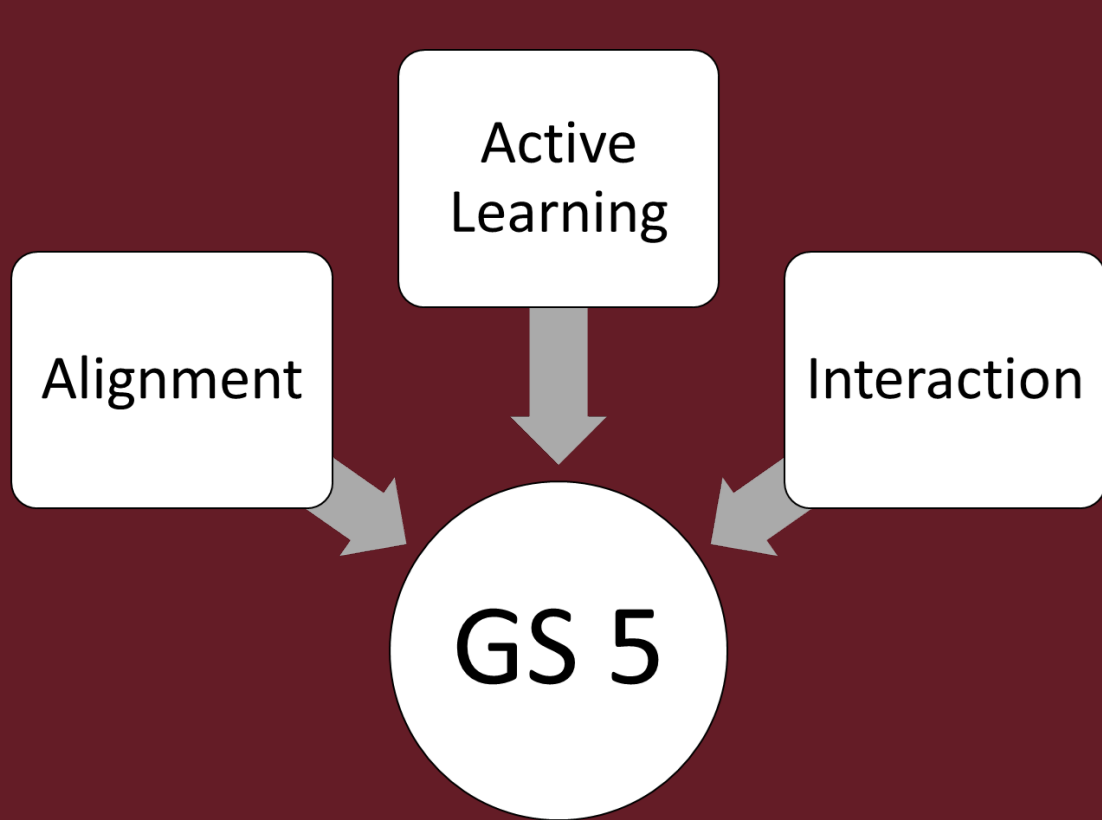
Identify the limitations of traditional online discussions and their impact on student engagement and participation.

3

Discuss best practices for creating learning communities with Yellowdig to encourage active, student-student learning.

Short presentation then lots of discussion

Learning Activities - Experiential Learning

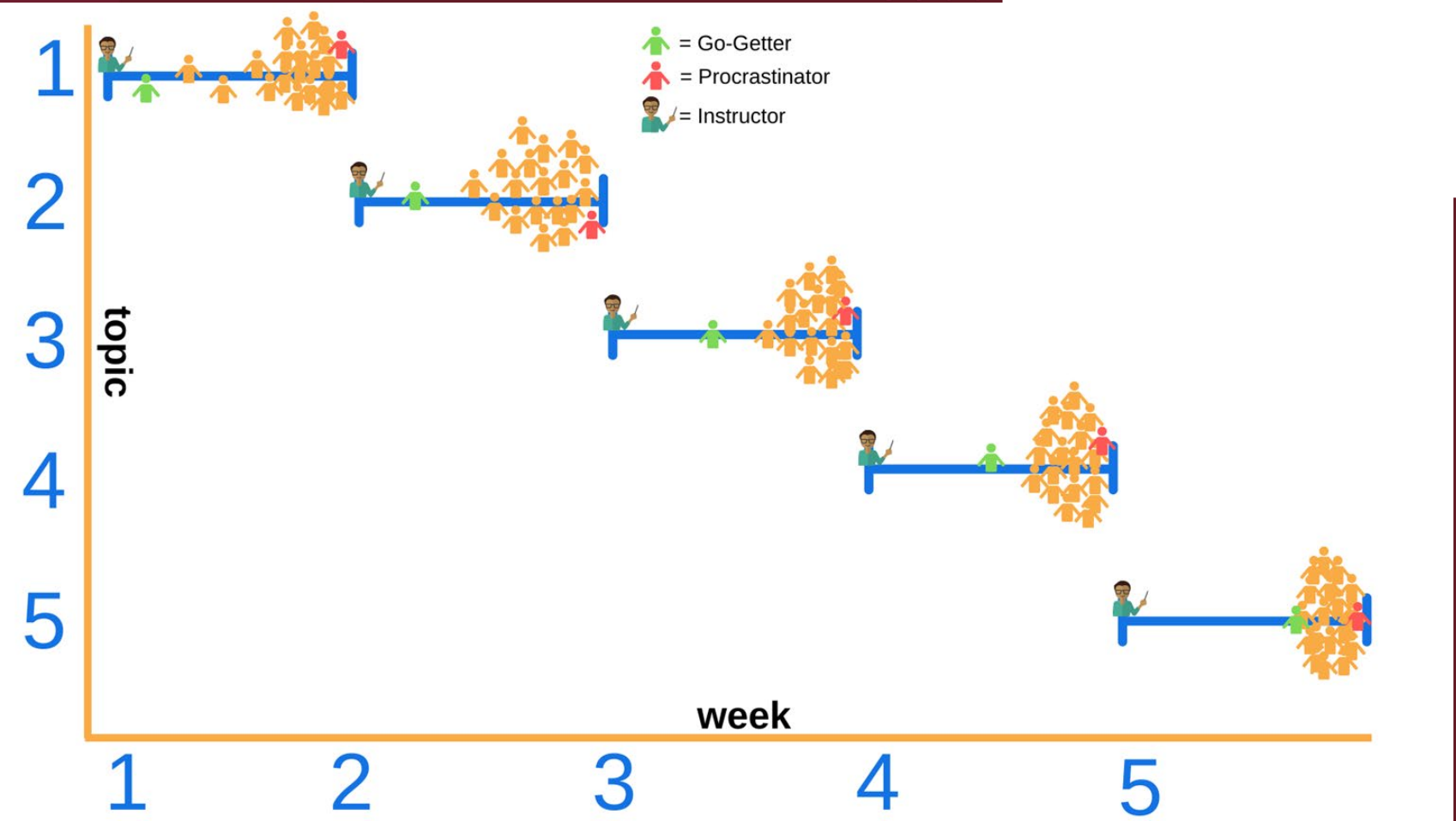


Challenges with Student Interaction

busy work, excessive
time requirements,
overly structured
(McCann et al., 2023)

disengagement
(Massey et al., 2019)

Typical "Social" Assignments



Possible Solutions



ACTIVE LEARNING
STRATEGIES



DEVELOP LEARNING
COMMUNITIES

Establishing Unprompted Learning Communities

Case Study from NC State University

English 331: Communication for Engineering and Technology

- QM Certified in 2019
- Juniors and Seniors
- Engineering majors
- 50 students in one class
- Discussion Forums

QM Certified Course



[QM Certified Courses at NC State](#)

Yellowdig and GS 5

- Meets SRS 5.1: Learning activities help learners achieve the stated objective.
- Learning Objective: Identify and discuss document design principles

The Importance of Document Design



TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION

DOCUMENT DESIGN



01/18/2023 EST



After reading all the topics within Unit 1 and 2, I decided that I was most interested in the Document Design aspect of any form of technical communication. I believe that although the creator of a document can be very well versed on the subject, how the information is presented is equally as important. How information is organized and spread visually affects what information the audience sees first, and it can affect how simple the audience perceives the information to be.

An example of document design elements that I am attaching is the tour poster for one of my favorite bands, Arctic Monkeys. Obviously the first thing that catches the eye is the large image of the artist in contrast with the black background. This is a use of visual attention to hook the audience. Elements of contrast can also be seen in the tour dates, where the cities are bolded to make the list easier on the eye. The entire poster uses symmetry to split the tour dates and the band name, so the information is spread clearly. The poster is also aligned for the audience to quickly see the band name near the center of the poster and in larger text.



Yellowdig and GS 5

- Meets SRS 5.2: Learning activities provide opportunities for interactions that support active learning.

The screenshot shows a Yellowdig discussion thread. At the top, there are navigation tabs for "DOCUMENT DESIGN" and "RESUMES". The main post is from a user with a black profile picture, dated 01/29/2023 EST. The text of the post discusses the importance of verb choice in resumes. Below the text is a poll question: "How much did you all consider verb choice in your resumes?". The poll results are displayed as horizontal bars: "A lot of consideration!" (50%), "Considered it to an extent." (35%), "Eh...." (5%), and "Zero consideration!!!" (10%). Below the poll, it says "20 votes cast". There are icons for reacting (smiley face, bell, refresh, flag, star) and a "Comment" button. Below the main post, there are two comments from the same user, dated 02/10/2023 EST. The first comment says: "To share my personal experience, I utilized the NC State guide when constructing my resume and attempted to include more dynamic verbs. Nonetheless, I encountered difficulty selecting the appropriate verb to enhance my bullet points." Below this comment are reaction icons and a "Reply" button. The second comment is partially visible and says: "Good question! I think that since resumes are supposed to be quickly glanced through."

DOCUMENT DESIGN **RESUMES**

01/29/2023 EST

When looking at the course materials for guidance on how to design a resume, I was surprised to see how much focus there was on the choice of verbs for describing items inside of a resume. Usually we think of verb choice as a second thought when compiling stuff for showing to a company, but even the subtle word choice gives the resume more staying power through use of such words and helps make a good impression on the employer.

How much did you all consider verb choice in your resumes?

A lot of consideration!	50%
Considered it to an extent.	35%
Eh....	5%
Zero consideration!!!	10%

20 votes cast

Comment

Sort (Newest)

02/10/2023 EST

To share my personal experience, I utilized the NC State guide when constructing my resume and attempted to include more dynamic verbs. Nonetheless, I encountered difficulty selecting the appropriate verb to enhance my bullet points.


Reply


02/10/2023 EST

Good question! I think that since resumes are supposed to be quickly glanced through.

Yellowdig and GS 5

- Meets 5.4: The requirements for learner interaction are clearly stated.

 Points earned
7065 / 14000

Your pace
 You have **980** of the **1000** point target for this period.

You are falling behind! Get 370 more points by Thu 11/02/2023 @11:59 pm EDT -Midnight. If you pick up the pace you can catch up!


[Show details](#)


Point details


Current Period: 12/ 12


4610	/	12000	=	38.4%
Cumulative Total		Cumulative Target		Grade ?

Period Ends: Apr 23, 2023, 11:59pm EDT -Midnight


Participation Log 
View all events that changed my points.

Earning Points 
Learn how to earn points in this community.

My Participation 
See a quick overview of my progress so far.


Point Earning Periods 
View a breakdown of the periods for this community.

Participation Log



View all events that changed my points.

Earning Points



Learn how to earn points in this community.

Your goal is to earn 12000 points between when point earning starts on 01/09/2023 -Start of Day and ends on 04/24/2023 -Midnight.

To stay on pace to get to the goal, point earning is broken up into smaller earning periods, which are usually a week long. You should aim to average 1000 points each period.


Here are some ways you can earn points in your community:

Earning Rules


- Starting a conversation
 - +280 points for the post having more than 40 words.
- Continuing a conversation
 - +210 points for the comment or reply having more than 20 words.
- Connecting with the community
 - +70 points for each comment from another user on your post.
 - +55 points for each reaction received from another user.
 - +varied points for accolades awarded on your posts or comments.

The periods end in this community on Sun 11:59 PM -Midnight.

Here are the "Accolades" that your community facilitator can award to good posts and comments. See if you can get any of them:



My Participation



See a quick overview of my progress so far.

Community of Learning and Support

- Students were engaged
- Students were supportive
- Conversations grew organically
- Conversations continued throughout the semester

The screenshot shows a LinkedIn discussion thread. At the top, there are two tabs: 'RESUMES' (selected) and 'JOB INTERVIEWS'. The main post is from a user with a black profile picture, dated 01/28/2023 EST. The text of the post discusses the author's experience with interviews, mentioning how they used to feel nervous and how they now treat interviews as conversations. The post asks for tips on being less nervous. Below the post are reaction icons (smiley face, bell, refresh, flag, star) and a 'Comment' button. A 'Collapse comments (19)' link is visible. The first comment is from a user with a black profile picture, dated 02/05/2023 EST. The comment text says: 'Interviews are always stressful, but it sounds like you have the right mindset; treat it like a conversation where you're mutually feeling one another out to see if its a good fit. I think exposure will always be the best way to ease nerves, even just doing a mock interview with a friend'. Below the comment are reaction icons and a 'Reply' button. The second comment is from a user with a black profile picture, dated 02/05/2023 EST. The comment text says: 'Hey [redacted] In regards to being less nervous during interviews, a lot of it comes down to practice. Eventually, If you do enough mock/real interviews you get a better sense of what questions will be asked and have responses ready that can be adapted to the question at hand.'

RESUMES JOB INTERVIEWS

01/28/2023 EST

I used to find interviews really daunting, and I felt like I really needed to explain every single activity on my resume during my first elevator pitch. In reality, I found that keeping a brief introduction with my major, one or two important experiences and the reason I'd like to join the company are enough to start off on the right track. I've learned to treat the interview like a conversation, which I feel like really helps me feel natural and at ease during interviews. I think it's also important to remember that I'm interviewing the company as well - what kind of work environment do they have? What do they expect of me? Are they a group of people I'd like to work with?

Do you guys have any tips for being less nervous during interviews?

2

Comment

Collapse comments (19) Sort (Newest)

02/05/2023 EST

Interviews are always stressful, but it sounds like you have the right mindset; treat it like a conversation where you're mutually feeling one another out to see if its a good fit. I think exposure will always be the best way to ease nerves, even just doing a mock interview with a friend

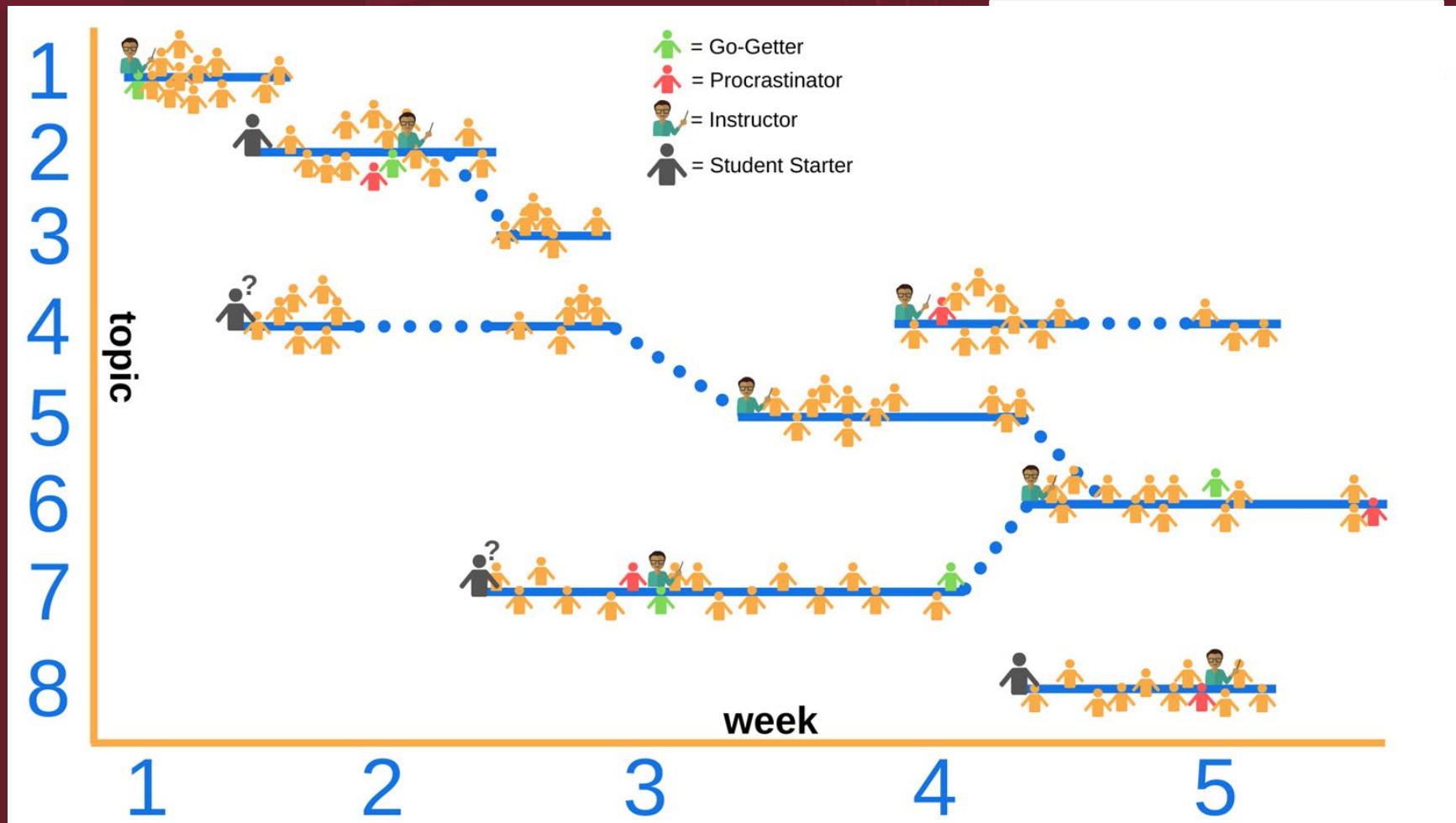
Reply

02/05/2023 EST

Hey [redacted]

In regards to being less nervous during interviews, a lot of it comes down to practice. Eventually, If you do enough mock/real interviews you get a better sense of what questions will be asked and have responses ready that can be adapted to the question at hand.

Yellowdig Community



Discussion Questions

- In your experience, what are the challenges with student-student interaction and active learning?
- How do you view your role (instructor) in creating a learning community?

References

Kolb, D. (1984). *Experiential Learning: Experience as the source of learning and development*, Englewood cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Massey, D., Johnston, A. N. B., Byrne, J. H., & Osborne, D. M. (2019). The digital age: A scoping review of nursing students' perceptions of the use of online discussion boards. *Nurse Educator Today*, 81, 26–33. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.nedt.2019.06.013>

McCann, J., Stringham, C., & Nelson, S. (2023). Student perceptions of the online discussion board. *Management and Economics Research Journal*, 9(2), 1–8. <http://dx.doi.org/10.18639/MERJ.2023.9900078>