



**LEARNINGHOUSE**<sup>®</sup>

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# Moodle 2.2

## Student User Guide

### Types of Forums

## Types of Forums

A discussion forum is an asynchronous session, which means users will not participate in the discussion at the same time. Similar to writing letters or messages back and forth, users write a post, and some time elapses before they receive a reply or make their own reply.

### News Forum

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Instructors use the news forum to post information about the course for the whole class. Although you can read the information in this forum, you cannot post to the forum. News forum posts also appear in the **Latest News** block if your instructor or administrator has turned on this block. The news forum is also referred to as a **general forum**.

### Discussion Forum

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The discussion forum is where you “talk” to your classmates by responding to the instructor’s prompts and your fellow students’ posts. You can post in these forums. Discussion forums are also referred to as **learning forums**.

## Vocabulary

Some vocabulary before you start:

Word	Definition	Example
Forum	A forum usually contains multiple discussion topics within one overall conversation. It usually starts with a generic question that you and other students will add discussions to.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The American Revolution</li> <li>• Diseases of the respiratory system</li> <li>• Supply and demand</li> <li>• Introductions</li> </ul>
Discussion	A discussion is one conversation within the forum topic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the causes of the American Revolution?</li> <li>• What criteria can you use to determine if a person is suffering from the common cold, influenza, or allergies?</li> <li>• Discuss how supply and demand affect prices and quality.</li> <li>• Post a short biography to introduce yourself to the class.</li> </ul>
Post	<p>A post is your response to the forum prompt or topic or your reply to someone else.</p> <p>Writing a post is like putting your letter in the mail (i.e., the “post”).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The causes of the American Revolution were . . .</li> <li>• The criteria for the common cold are . . .</li> <li>• Supply and demand affect prices and quality by . . .</li> <li>• Hi! I’m . . .</li> </ul>
Reply	A reply is your answer to someone else’s post.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What about . . . ?</li> <li>• Did you consider . . . ?</li> <li>• Welcome!</li> </ul>



### Tip

Most discussion forums post a rubric that explains how instructors will grade posts and replies. Make sure to review this rubric before posting and replying.

If you are not certain about grading criteria, ask your instructor for clarification.