

Discussion and sharing

Discussing ideas is a powerful way to learn

An important part of learning is contributing to discussion and sharing ideas both digitally and on campus. If you are simply observing you are missing out on getting involved and helping to create the debate. When we actively participate we are more likely to remember the material covered.



Asking questions is fundamental to deep learning



- Discussions give you an opportunity to ask questions and clarify your own understanding.
- Responding to questions others have asked strengthens your own learning and helps you structure your ideas.

Pause for thought

- Aim to comment thoughtfully and add to the discussion.
- Thinking about what to say and getting a considered response, with some feedback, makes you think too.
- Try to support what you say with appropriate evidence.
- Your audience may include your friends, other students you know less well and members of staff.



Listen to and read what other people contribute



- Take time to understand other viewpoints and the evidence being offered.
- Others will have different perspectives and offer reasons you may not have considered before.
- Alternative points of view make discussion more productive.

You may not agree, but aim to respond respectfully

On bulletin boards, chat and comment spaces it can be harder to get an idea across clearly because contributors are not seen and heard. You can ask for clarification.

- **If you feel emotional, wait before replying.**



Writing a blog, the first post or starting a new topic or thread



- Use key words in the title so others know what it is about.
- Refer to your course information to check what is expected.
- Take time to think through and draft your ideas.
- Give good reasons based on verifiable sources or experience.
- Keep it focused and within the word count – if given.
- Look back later, read what others say and reply constructively.