

Discussion Boards

Each week you are required to post to the discussion board (described in detail below). With any class, discussion is an important part of the learning process; online classes are no exception to this. This is your opportunity to actively participate in the course. Discussions are located on the D2L course page under the *Communication* tab and the weekly folders. Discussions are based on the *Taking Sides* issues, which are set up in a debate format. To make discussions easier, you may be assigned to a discussion group.

Required Textbook: Toni Serafini, B. J. Rye, Maureen Drysdale. 2012. *Taking Sides: Clashing Views in Adolescence, Third Edition*. Dushkin/McGraw-Hill.

Post 1 (by 5pm ET on Wednesday):

Pick the “YES” or the “NO” side of the argument to support (this does not necessarily have to be your own opinion). However, you need to read *both sides* of the issue to have an informed opinion and debate. You must post an original response before responding to other threads. This post should be about 250 words (± 25 words). Please include the word “YES” or “NO” in the title of your original post.

Worth up to 6 points.

Post 2 (by 5pm ET on Friday):

Respond to someone who took the opposite side with where you find flaws in their position and offer your own points. Your response should be about 150 words (± 20 words).

Worth up to 4 points.

Post 3 (by 5pm ET on Friday):

Respond to someone who took the same side as you, adding additional evidence to support their argument. Your response should be about 150 words (± 20 words).

Worth up to 4 points.

Posts 4, 5, and 6 (by 10pm ET on Sunday):

You then need to complete three additional response posts on either side of the debate. You may (and are encouraged to) respond to comments on your original post and subsequent posts. There is no minimum or maximum length for these posts, but they must be substantial contributions to the discussion (one or two sentences is not enough). **These posts must be at level 3 or higher**, meaning they are in response to response posts, like posts 2 and 3 explained above.

Worth up to 2 points each.

Extra credit post:

You may select four weeks of the semester to complete one additional post that follows the same guidelines as posts 4, 5, and 6. You may only do this four times for a total of 8 extra points.

Worth up to 2 points.

Grading

Discussion board contributions will be graded based on content, critical thinking, and evidence of completing the readings. Most importantly, I am looking for valuable contributions to a class discussion that continue and enrich the conversation. You can receive up to 20 points per week for discussion board posts.