

Discussions

This tutorial is designed to help you:

- Become familiar with the three discussion topic types: Threaded, Blog, and Journal
- Post discussion messages in your WorldClassRoom course.

The Discussions tool is a forum for communication that enables communication between students in the online learning community. The Discussions tool allows students to discuss topics and post messages at any time. Discussions may be divided into categories and they are often related to a chapter, a specific question, or the introduction of a new concept, depending on the course design.

There are three types of discussions that can be used in your online course:

- **Threaded:** Form of structured online discussion where users post and reply to messages that are grouped together. This will most closely resemble the back and forth dialogue that would take place in a face to face class.
- **Blog:** A collaborative space with entries that are posted in reverse chronological order. This can be a place for sharing information that doesn't require a response.
- **Journal:** A place where you can place your personal reflection on course topics or lectures. Journals are a personal space therefore only the author of the journal may create an entry and the exchange is private between the instructor and the student.

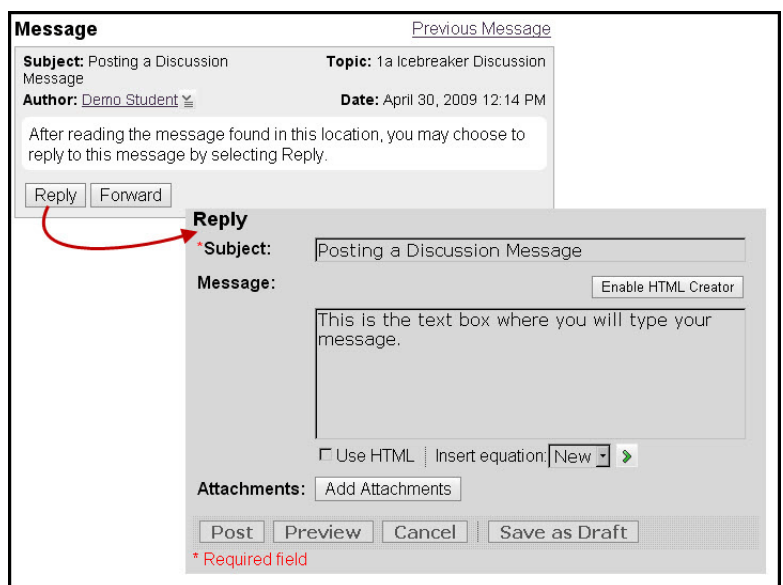
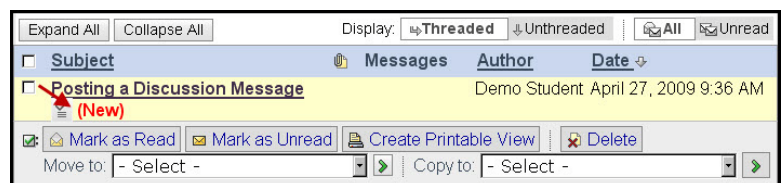
Posting a Discussion Message

1. From within your WorldClassRoom course, locate **Discussions** under Course Tools and/or in the weekly learning modules.
2. Select the discussion topic you need to read for the weekly assignment.
3. You should view a page of discussion messages under the topic. A message marked with the word **New** means this message has not been read by you.
4. Select the linked message title to read the message.
5. Select **Reply** to post a response to this posting.
6. When the Reply page appears, select the text box and type your message in the text box.
7. Select **Post** to post this message.

Preview allows you to view the message before posting it. **Save as Draft** allows you to save the message and edit it later.

Helpful Hint: The WorldClassRoom tools have a built in time out feature to ensure the safety of your data. Typing inside of the text box in the discussion tool does not count as

activity on the WCR timer. We recommend that you type any long message in a word processor and then cut and paste into the message box in the discussion.



Creating a New Message

Threaded Discussion and Blog

1. Select **Discussions** in the Course Tools menu or in the desired weekly module.
2. To start a new posting in a threaded discussion and blog, click **Create Message**.
3. Enter a unique subject title.
4. Type your message in the text box.
5. Select **Post**.

Compiling Messages

1. Select **Discussions** in the Course Tools menu or in the desired weekly module.
2. Select the discussion topic you would like to view.
3. You can select **Create Printable View** to view all the messages under the topic.

Viewing Messages

1. Select **Discussions** in the Course Tools menu or in the desired weekly module.
2. To view all messages in a threaded topic, click **Expand All**. All of the threads are expanded.
3. To view all message titles in a single thread, click the **Expand** icon.