

Regina M. Hierholzer Instructional Design Samples
Sample: Rubric (distributed for discussion board assessment)

Discussion Board Rubric

Attendance and Participation: Attendance and participation are essential to create the sense of an online learning community with your classmates and instructor. Participation in weekly discussion is mandatory. Please see additional information concerning discussion board etiquette. Your instructor, you should find it on your course or your instructor will send it to you. Discussions will be graded weekly; scores will be based on the following rubric:

	Excellent (4 points)	Average (3 points)	Fair (2 points)	Poor (0 points)
Timely contributions and responsiveness	2 or more postings per unit made on at least two different days, including: 1 student initiated topic AND 1 response to peer	2 or more postings per unit	1 posting per unit	No postings per unit
Knowledge and incorporation of course content	Provides evidence that lecture material was clearly understood. Posts suggest critical thinking and/or synthesis of information	Provides evidence that lecture material was clearly understood	Postings have unclear relationship to course material	Provides no evidence that readings were completed and/or understood
Responsiveness to peers	Responds to other students with thoughtful ideas and opinions. Poses additional questions or discussion	Responds to other students with thoughtful ideas and opinions	Does not respond to other students with thoughtful ideas and opinions	Responds inappropriately to peers
Use of online etiquette	Follows discussion board etiquette as posted on the Discussion Board Tips in course	1-2 infractions against discussion board etiquette	2-3 infractions against discussion board etiquette	Significant infractions against discussion board etiquette

Notes to instructor: Include or append a document for discussion board etiquette – also available from instructional designer. This rubric is a 16-point scale where discussions are assessed on a weekly basis and students are given a weekly discussion grade. Changes can be made to the document depending on how the instructor chooses to assess the discussion board responses, as well as changing the point structure.