

Types of Threaded Discussions

Threaded discussions are an essential component of online classes, and often they are considered **the classroom**, in the sense that they are the area where interaction about material happens. Consider the different kinds of threaded discussions you might have in your class.

- ✚ **Virtual Office** - It is helpful to have a “place” where students can post course-related questions. The teacher and/or other students can respond to the comments or questions.
- ✚ **Introductions** - Having an introduction discussion area is a great way to learn about students and to start building an online community. Students could use pictures, videos, or other media to post information about themselves.
- ✚ **Regular Discussions** - A place for students to discuss the current chapter or weekly, content with each other and the instructor.
- ✚ **Question Areas** - These areas provide a forum for students to ask detailed questions about the material that doesn't necessarily pertain to the weekly discussion topic.
- ✚ **Class Lounge/Coffee Shop/Etc.** - It's nice to have an ungraded discussion area (usually in the course home area) where off-topic discussions can take place.
- ✚ **Article Review** - This is a nice place to have students write reviews of assigned articles. This provides a way for other students to comment on the reviews.

Maybe you can, or have, come up with even more ways to use Threaded Discussions in your classes to improve the educational experience for everyone. If that is the case, please share them with others so they can use them in their courses.