Blackboard Tutorial: Discussion
Program Transcript

In an effort to continually improve the Walden learning experience, Walden has implemented several exciting enhancements to the classroom Discussion Boards, guided by feedback from students and faculty members.

The discussions are updated and modernized, easier to use, and have new features.

Enhancements to the discussion board include avatar images, easy identification of the instructor, the ability to sort by discussion thread...

...the ability to view all replies in context on the same page...

You will notice the home page in your classroom have a new crisp look and feel and editing tools even stay hidden until needed.

...a new text editor with a number of new features, and improved, automatic support for Microsoft Word: the Paste-from-Word mash-up should no longer be needed!

There is no change in the way the Discussion Board is accessed, but the Discussion Board will look different at the Thread level.

Indentation of discussions indicates reply hierarchy - replies indented further to the right occur later in the discussion.

The new interface looks very different. Users who have added an avatar image to their profiles will have those images appear next to their replies.

Replies from your Instructor are now clearly identified by tags. Use the "Expand" buttons to read the text of multiple replies on the same page.

A new content editor replaces the old one.

The new editor provides all the same features as the old one, but adds some new features like full-screen editing capability. Toolbars for a variety of advanced features are hidden until needed.

In Blackboard, you can hold the mouse-pointer over editor buttons to find out what the buttons do.

There is no "Paste-from-Word Mash-up" in the new Blackboard. It is no longer needed.

Microsoft Word formatting is now cleaned up automatically without the extra steps of using the mash-up.

Blackboard may still make minor changes to line spacing and font styles in the conversion from Microsoft Word to hypertext, but Word formatting should now be much less likely to cause errors for other users.

In general, the new editor looks different and has some new features, but it should work in much the same way as the original editor did.

The "Global Navigation" menu provides an alternative way to access Discussions.

Using these buttons you can filter content in "My Blackboard" using these buttons, to display all new updates, only updates directly involving you, or only updates relating to a specific course.

You can still access discussions from within the courses. This is simply an alternative way to do so.

Red numbers like these on the "Global Navigation" menu button alert you to new activity in your courses, such as replies to your Discussions.

Upload a photo using this button in the Global Navigation menu.

You can add or Change Picture here, and, with Privacy Options, choose whether to allow users outside your classrooms to see your profile.

The Discussion Boards are divided into Forums, which typically contain one or more Threads that you can reply to.

The basic features of the Forum level of the Discussion Boards have not changed much.

Tree View can be expanded to show replies in their positions in the Thread structure...

...and List View will provide a little more information and a couple more tools.

You can use the "Display" button to filter the Discussion content that is displayed. But usually it is best to leave this set at "Show All".

The new Discussion Board is accessed in the same way as the old one. It looks very different, but should function in much the same way as the old one. Messages from the instructor are now clearly identified.

Text of all replies can appear on the same page using the "Expand" button.
There is also a new content editor, with automatic support for Microsoft Word, no
Paste-from-Word mash-up is needed.

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