

The background is a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of small white dots. On the left side, there are several overlapping circular elements. One prominent feature is a large circular scale with tick marks and numbers ranging from 140 to 260. Other elements include smaller circles, some with dashed outlines, and curved arrows pointing in various directions, suggesting a technical or scientific theme.

FIVE PRACTICES TO MAXIMIZE DISCUSSION BOARDS

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DOUBLE FACEPALM

When the Fail is so strong, one Facepalm is not enough.


Discussion Boards are so FRUSTRATING!!!!
Why do I even attempt to use them?

 **Chapter 1 Discussion** 1
Adam Wilson
[All Sections](#)

In your discussion thread, respond to the following questions. Please present your ideas in paragraph form with complete sentences (use correct grammar). Each answer requires one paragraph (One paragraph contains a minimum of four sentences; if you write the minimum, each sentence needs to contain at least eight words). This is a graded exercise! To receive full credit make sure you post your response then comment on two fellow classmates posts.


Search entries or author Unread   ✓ Subscribed

← Reply

 **Leslie Burton**
3:01pm


The Americas have a way more complex history than I realized. The "Collision of Cultures" in the Americas was a positive experience. Without the destruction and disease brought to the Americas, the Native American's would have continued to be vulnerable to disease and lack modern technology. The European's arrival led to the international use of maize, squash, and beans. These goods, along with potatoes and tomatoes, would never have made their way around the world and into international cuisine if the Spanish had not come to America. Also, the way Americas functions with the rest of the world be highly different if the Spanish had never come. Communication among countries would be much harder, as there would be many more governments for the world to accommodate.

The Aztecs and Incas lost to the Spanish due to disease and technology. The Aztecs and Incas had a weakness to disease, as a crowd disease had never spread through the Americas. The Aztecs and Incas would have had no idea how to treat their sick and dying citizens. They would not have known to avoid handling the dead bodies of those who died of illness. This would have led to the death of many Aztecs and Incas. This would have given the Spanish an advantage because the population that the needed to conquer would be smaller. The Incas and Aztecs also had less of a technological advantage. They did not have guns, and therefore were easily conquered by the technologically-advanced Spanish.

 **Stephanie Sellers**
3:09pm

I could tell you really thought this post out, Leslie! You had some wonderful points. I really enjoyed the last sentence of the discussion post answer; it was wonderfully worded! Good job!

← Reply



SERIOUSLY . . . WHAT IS THE VALUE OF UTILIZING DISCUSSION BOARDS? WHAT LEARNING GOALS CAN BE SATISFIED WITH DISCUSSION BOARDS?

- Demonstration of Knowledge of Key Concepts
- Community Building
- Reflection
- Consensus Building
- Critical Thinking
- Student Leadership
- Other Goals

PRACTICE 1: EXPLAIN YOUR EXPECTATIONS



Hint #1: Post a Video of you explaining the assignment and your expectations

PRACTICE 1: EXPLAIN YOUR EXPECTATIONS

Criteria	Ratings						Points
	10.0 to >8.0 pts	8.0 to >6.0 pts	6.0 to >4.0 pts	4.0 to >2.0 pts	2.0 to >0.0 pts	0.0 pts	10.0 pts
Responsiveness	Mastery	Excellent	Satisfactory	Lacking	Poor	Incomplete	
Responsiveness to discussion assignment prompt - Addressing all the questions in a timely manner	All components of discussion prompt addressed in initial posting	All components of discussion prompt addressed in multiple postings	Up to 60% of the prompt components addressed in one or more postings	Less than 50% of prompt components addressed in one or more postings	Less than 25% of prompt components addressed in one or more postings	Student did NOT address any prompt components	
Application of assigned reading(s)	5.0 pts	4.0 pts	3.0 pts	2.0 pts	1.0 pts	0.0 pts	5.0 pts
	Mastery	Excellent	Satisfactory	Lacking	Poor	Incomplete	
Student's use of factual information and arguments from the assigned readings. Whenever appropriate the student should cite the use of any outside sources.	Student clearly demonstrates that readings were understood by incorporation into postings - multiple, specific facts were used AND expounded upon to demonstrate understanding of key concepts	Student demonstrates that readings were understood by incorporation into postings - a couple of specific facts were used AND expounded upon to demonstrate understanding of key concepts	Readings were understood by incorporation into postings - at least one fact was used AND expounded upon to demonstrate understanding of at least one key concept	Questionable if readings were understood - no facts used AND explanations were vague with a lack of details	Evident that readings were not understood - no facts were used, no expounding occurred, and only superficial comments were made in an attempt to submit something	Student did NOT complete the assignment OR chose not to address the topic/reading material at all	
Participation in Discussion/Feedback to Peers	2.5 pts	2.0 pts	1.5 pts	1.0 pts	0.5 pts	0.0 pts	2.5 pts
	Mastery	Excellent	Satisfactory	Lacking	Poor	Incomplete	
Commenting on fellow participants' original posts and replying to other's comments/postings	Multiple points from multiple participants clearly built upon/refuted in postings	At least one point from multiple participants clearly built upon/refute	At least one point from one other participant clearly built upon/refuted in postings	One or more points from one or more participants only vaguely built upon/refute	No evidence that any other postings have been read/Unwitting repetition of questions or points made by others	No participation/no feedback or comments completed	
Timeliness	2.5 pts	2.0 pts	1.5 pts	1.0 pts	0.5 pts	0.0 pts	2.5 pts
	Mastery	Excellent	Satisfactory	Lacking	Poor	Incomplete	
Timeliness of discussion contributions to promote the overall discussion and enable fellow classmates the opportunity to respond to your posts	Postings well distributed throughout the week	Postings somewhat distributed throughout the week	Postings neither distributed nor concentrated throughout the week	Postings somewhat concentrated during the week (i.e., all posted within a somewhat brief period of time)	Postings very concentrated during the week (i.e., all posted within a very brief period of time)	No participation	

Hint #2: Create a Grading Rubric and Post it for Students to see BEFORE completing their Discussion

PRACTICE 1: EXPLAIN YOUR EXPECTATIONS

Question

Write an essay to answer these questions:

- What was the Cold War? When did it begin? Why did it begin?
- Two examples of domestic issues that occurred because of the Cold War including specifically who was involved, what took place, where, and when
- Two examples of international issues that occurred because of the Cold War including specifically who was involved, what took place, where, and when
- What was the most significant event of the Cold War & why?

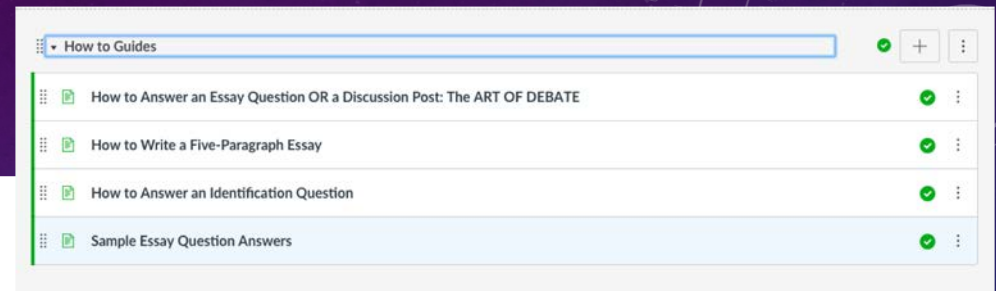
Student's Answer

The Cold War was an everything-but-official war between the Western and Eastern Blocs, most prominently the United States and the Soviet Union. It began almost immediately after the ending of WWII primarily due to rising tensions between the two countries over extreme differences in ideology that had been building for many years prior. As a result of these rising tensions, the two countries began to stockpile nuclear weapons in preparation for nuclear war, which caused mass fear among the citizens of both nations, and overall, made matters worse.

The war caused several domestic issues within the United States, with one being the rooting out of Soviet espionage within the United States. A great example of this would be Joseph McCarthy, who throttled already-high American fears by publicly announcing that he had a list of Communists working within the government, which led to several controversial events, notably witch hunts against people on the list. Another domestic issue was the fear of a looming nuclear war among American citizens. In reaction to these fears, many Americans built underground nuclear shelters that were capable of withstanding a nuclear blast. All together, millions of Americans built these types of shelters, which showed how deeply felt this fear was among citizens.

The war also caused a plethora of issues abroad, with one of the biggest and longest-lasting of these being the Vietnam War. In this war, the ideologies of capitalism and communism fought through the U.S. and South Vietnam and U.S.S.R. and North Vietnam respectively. Although there was never any actual military engagements specifically between the U.S. and U.S.S.R., they fought indirectly through the implementation of aid to their respective allies. The U.S., under foreign policy that was highly against the spread of Communism, even sent troops to Vietnam. This war lasted throughout the 50s, 60s, and 70s, as neither side was prepared to back down. Another very similar event was the Korean War. This situation was almost identical to the Vietnam War, as the U.S. and U.S.S.R. fought indirectly through the aiding of their respective allies, this time those allies being South and North Korea. This war was also shorter than the Vietnam War, as it only lasted from 1950-1953.

Probably the most significant event in the Cold War was the Cuban Missile Crisis. In this crisis, the U.S. under the JFK administration refused to take nuclear missiles out of Turkey. In response to this, the U.S.S.R. placed tactical nuclear missiles in Cuba that were ready to strike. It was at this point that the world was the closest to nuclear annihilation that it has ever been. Thankfully however, the situation was diffused when a deal for the U.S. to remove missiles from Turkey was agreed upon. Although it didn't end in a catastrophe, the Cuban Missile Crisis served as the climax of the Cold War.



Hint #3: Provide Examples of Previous Students' Work

PRACTICE 2: STRATEGIZE YOUR PLAN AND ASK APPROPRIATE QUESTIONS



PRACTICE 2: STRATEGIZE YOUR PLAN AND ASK APPROPRIATE QUESTIONS

Hint: Ask Good Questions!!!

WHAT TO ASK:

- Exploratory questions
- Challenge questions
- Relational questions
- Diagnostic questions
- Action questions
- Cause-and-effect questions
- Extension questions
- Hypothetical questions
- Priority questions
- Summary questions

PITFALLS TO AVOID:

- Asking too many questions at once
- Asking a question and answering it yourself
- Failing to probe or explore the implications of answers
- Asking unconnected questions
- Asking yes/no or leading questions
- Ignoring or failing to build on answers

PRACTICE 3: BE AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT



PRACTICE 3: BE AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT

Hint #1: Model Exemplary and Professional Behavior



PRACTICE 3: BE AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT

Hint #2: Utilize Small Groups



PRACTICE 4: FEEDBACK AND ASSESSMENT

Hint #1: Provide Individual Feedback to Every Student
Especially in the First Few Times You Use Discussion Board Assignments

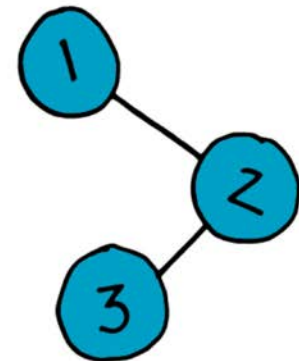
THE 3 COMPONENTS OF GREAT FEEDBACK



TIMELY



ACCURATE



ACTIONABLE

PRACTICE 4: FEEDBACK AND ASSESSMENT



Compliment Sandwich

- start with a bit of praise
- then to give a bit of criticism
- and to finish with a bit more praise

MORE IMPORTANT IN FEEDBACK:

- *Begin with a **FACT** – A fact is rarely controversial, so it's a great way to start your assessment.*
- ***Focus on a simple, direct, clearly-stated fact***
- ***Assess:** State what you value (where the post does well and where it is lacking)*
- ***CALL TO ACTION:** Explain what concrete action the student can take to improve*

DON'T GET DISCOURAGED



Hint: Remember this is
FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT –
It's okay if it takes students
some time to meet your
expectations for the
discussion posts

PRACTICE 5: TRY INNOVATIVE APPROACHES

Enter File Code Flipgrid Educator Login Resources

A grid of student posts with avatars and colorful filters. The posts are arranged in a 3x3 grid. The top row has a green plus sign, a post with 'CREATIVE' and a star, and a post with 'BRILLIANT' and a star. The middle row has 'AMAZING', 'Stacey Z' (with a quote: 'Definitely the nature of...'), 'Matthew A', and 'Elizabeth M' (with a quote: 'So excited to see the...'). The bottom row has 'Nathan C' (with a quote: 'ABS the electric...'), 'Shannon R' (with a quote: 'I love the...'), 'Kevin S' (with a quote: 'Can't wait to see the...'), and 'Sherene' (with a quote: 'Totally the...'). Other filters include 'WONDERFUL' and 'FANTASTIC'.

Adam Wilson 8mo SIGN UP LOG IN SHARE

Organizing Your Toolbox: Reflection and Discussion of Takeaways from the Symposium

Utilizing the colleagues sitting around you, become a group to review and discuss the following questions. As you are completing your discussion, please take time to respond as a group to this Padlet we can collaborate as a larger group.

- Reflection**
Reflect on this morning's sessions: Identify one important concept that you learned. Why do you believe this concept is important?
A BOTCHED HOME IMPROVEMENT JOB
17 comments
- Implementation**
Apply what you have learned. How do you plan to implement some of the best practices and ideas discussed today into your future courses.
Strategy
15 comments
- Share**
Is there a tool you are using that we have not discussed today OR do you have an innovative approach to teaching you would be willing to share?
Share
21 comments
- What are the next steps?**
Where do we go from here? Is there an approach you would like to use in your course but don't know how to implement it? Are there tools that still need to be honed before you would feel comfortable implementing them?
UNDER
0 comments

GOOGLE EXPEDITIONS

EXPLORE THE WORLD
Knowledge Quest Blog

The Great Wall of China

Over 20,000 kilometers long, this UNESCO World Heritage Site is a massive barrier that stretches across northern China. In ancient times, the Great Wall defended China against invasion from the north. The fortifications consist of many smaller walls that were built and connected over a period of more than 2,000 years. Some sections of the Great Wall go back to the 7th century B.C., though the

- Large Jinshan Tower
- Jinshanling Great Wall
- Small Jinshan Tower

REVIEW

1. Explain your expectations
 - Remember posting a video can be very beneficial
 - Rubrics are wonderful tools to illustrate your expectations and close the loop by providing clear feedback to students
2. Strategize your plan and ask appropriate questions
 - What materials do you want students to review?
 - What Learning Objectives do you want to accomplish?
 - **ASK GOOD QUESTIONS!!!**
3. Be an active participant
 - Model good behavior
 - Engage students
4. Provide Timely, Concise Feedback and Assessment with a **CALL TO ACTION**
 - Reinforce your expectations
 - Praise good work
 - Clearly state areas needing improvement
5. Be willing to try new approaches

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