



# HCE 430 HEALTH CARE ETHICS

## DISCUSSION BOARD GUIDELINES

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The learning in an online course is greatly enhanced through the exchange of student ideas in the discussion forums, and it is the online modality we use in lieu of traditional in-class discussions. Thus the discussion board is an integral part of HCE430, and counts as a significant part of your grade.

As in a traditional class, student discussions should be conducted in a respectful, courteous manner (See Netiquette). Moreover, please refrain from threats, ad hominem attacks, and other disrespectful rhetorical tactics. Failure to conduct oneself respectful manner in the discussion forums will adversely affect your grade. **Please watch this very brief presentation on Netiquette:** <http://prezi.com/49664/>

You are expected to post at **least one main message** a week that answers the questions raised in each novel forum. You are also expected to **post at least two messages** in each forum that responds to postings of another classmate by expanding or questioning his or her comments by the date indicated. In the forums, posting more than the minimum typically enhances your weekly grade. Please note some forums will be marked as 'optional'. If this occurs, your participation in such forums is optional, and will not typically impact your discussion grade for any given week

**Quality postings** are more than "Good job!" or "I agree with you!". If you agree with a classmate, *explain* the reasons for this. If you disagree with a classmate, provide reasons to support your position.

Writing discussion posts is different from writing a term paper or an essay question on an exam. As you post messages to the discussion forums, keep the above parameters and the following objectives in mind as they will be the criteria on which I grade your posts:

- **Relevance:** Messages should relate to the subject matter. They should provide information, opinions or questions about bioethical concepts. Relating the subject matter to personal experience is acceptable as long as the focus remains academic in nature.
- **Concise/Grammatically Correct:** Effective messages get to the point, are clearly stated, and are limited to one screen. Also, make sure you are spelling your words correctly, and using appropriate grammar. In other words, this is not like sending a text message to your buddy.
- **Interactive:** Online discussions work best when interaction occurs. Reply messages should explore, explain, or expand on a concept. If classmates reply or object, the message has served its purpose. A focused message that induces replies from fellow students moves the discussion forward and enhances learning.
- **Promptness:** Your message should appear in the context of other similar messages. Reading the bulletin board regularly provides the opportunity to enter the discussion on a regular basis. Otherwise your comments appear late and out of context.
- **Logical:** Educated persons value arguments that are logical. If your message is not a question, it should contain a logical argument. Conclusions should be clearly stated and supported by premises, reasons, evidence, or grounds for belief.
- **Novelty:** Messages should introduce new ideas, issues, or questions that are relevant to the discussion. This shows that you not only understand the material, but that you also are able to relate it to other issues.

### WEEKLY DISCUSSION BOARD RUBRIC

Criteria	A (90-100%) Outstanding	B (89-80%) Proficient	C (79-70%) Basic	D/F (69-0%) Below expectations
<b>Critical Thinking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Clear and logical statements</li> <li>▪ Shows insight, and engages in analysis</li> <li>▪ Refutes bias</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Substantial information</li> <li>▪ Thought, insight, and analysis has taken place</li> <li>▪ Detects bias</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Generally competent</li> <li>▪ Information is thin and commonplace</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rudimentary and superficial</li> <li>▪ No analysis or insight is displayed</li> <li>▪ Confusing</li> <li>▪ Lacks explanation of reasoning</li> </ul>
<b>Evidence/ Argument Construction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Uses reliable evidence when constructing arguments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Uses reliable evidence, but may be out of context or unrelated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Uses some evidence although it may not be sufficient to support the argument</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Uses no evidence or unreliable, biased, or misleading evidence</li> </ul>
<b>Uniqueness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New ideas or examples</li> <li>▪ Connections made with depth and detail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New ideas or connections</li> <li>▪ Lacks depth and/or detail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Few, if any new ideas or connections</li> <li>▪ Rehash or summarize other postings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ no new ideas</li> <li>▪ Simply stating "I agree with ..." without providing a solid explanation that offers new ideas</li> </ul>
<b>Timeliness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Completes all required postings</li> <li>▪ Participates early in discussion and throughout the discussion</li> <li>▪ Responds to peer/instructor follow-up questions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All required postings</li> <li>▪ Some not in time for others to read &amp; respond</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All required postings</li> <li>▪ Most at the last minute without allowing for response time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Some, or all, required postings missing</li> <li>▪ Fails to respond to follow-up questions</li> </ul>

**Stylistics**

- Few to no grammatical or stylistic errors
- Several grammatical or stylistic errors
- Obvious grammatical or stylistic errors
- Errors interfere with content
- Obvious grammatical or stylistic errors
- Makes understanding difficult

**TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL DISCUSSION**

- **KISS**-keep it short (or within a designated boundary, for example 200 words or less), simple and to the point.
- **Check grammar and spelling.** Use the spell check. Read or preview your message before posting it.
- **Use a subject line** that is *short, descriptive, and distinctive* so as not to confuse the class. For example, if a message's subject line in week 8 reads simply "week 8," it provides no clue as to content. A subject line that reads "product costs" at least tells us what the message is about.
- **Change the subject line** if the conversation has changed or if the focus has shifted.
- **Format the message.** Use lists and spaces between paragraphs to make the message easy to read and respond to.
- **Reference** other messages from your classmates.
- **Use citations** and references if you are quoting another author or your textbook, or any ideas that are not originally your own.
- **Avoid file attachments.** Keep file attachments to a minimum because the conversation stops while the file is downloaded. It can also be difficult to respond to a message that has only a file attachment and no text. You are welcome to compose your message in Microsoft Word but please do not post it as an attachment in the discussion, instead copy the text and then paste it into the thread. Keep in mind that you might lose your formatting.
  - If a file is attached, be sure to explain briefly in the message what the attachment contains to facilitate the conversation. Article attachments are ok.
- **Think value-added.** To reduce anxiety about the number of messages, ensure that your message adds value to the discussion. Messages that are appropriate face-to-face yet do not add value to online discussions include the common courtesies of saying "Thanks" and "You're welcome." In an online course, everyone does not need to read these. When replying you may reply to the sender or to the discussion topic, so use *reply to the sender privately* when appropriate so that the number of non- value-added messages is kept to a minimum.
- **Add links.** Reference your research just as you would in a written paper. For example, use quotation marks for direct quotes and cite sources as appropriate. Also test the URL by previewing your message. To test links you may have added, formatting, and spelling, **preview the message** before posting it.

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