

Substantive Posts for Discussion and Participation

Discussion:

Discussion posts are made in response to the Discussion Questions posted by the instructor for each topic or unit. Each question must be answered by each student. Answers must be a **minimum of 125 words** and should address all parts of the theory and application of the issue discussed. Your response to a discussion question should be thoughtful and encompass all aspects of the question while utilizing information from the course materials as well as your own research. Once you have made your initial post, you will then respond to at least 2 other discussion posts from a classmate or teacher.

Participation:

In order to earn full participation points, you must thoughtfully reply to at least 2 separate posts made by a fellow student or the instructor. These posts should consist of new ideas, your perspectives, specific follow-up questions, etc. Your substantive replies to your classmates should be a **minimum of 75 words** and should include insightful comments or reflections of the post you are replying to.

Use the following Guidelines for your responses to other participants.

Comments that are SUBSTANTIVE:

- compare and discriminate between ideas,
- relate knowledge from several areas and predict and or draw conclusions or assess the value of theories in real-world situations,
- make choices based on reasoned arguments from course content,
- use old ideas to create new ones,
- identify separate components, identify patterns, use information from course content to solve a new problem, or recognize hidden meanings
- interpret facts, and infer causes by integrating course content.

Comments that are NOT SUBSTANTIVE:

- comments that recall information (from the text or discussions) or demonstrate basic knowledge of major ideas or previously stated ideas (i.e. posts that simply list, describe, or label previously stated ideas or information from the textbook but do not *build on* existing information or contribute to discussion)
- off-topic comments, or personal comments that do not relate.
- comments that simply state agreement or disagreement without explanation.