

Student moderation of online discussion boards

This strategy has two main benefits (1) it frees up the lecturer/online facilitator (especially important where there are large class sizes) and (2) it broadens learners' experiences, motivates and engages them.

Setting up students with moderator access

Within MyUni, the University of Adelaide's learning management system, the instructor first needs to give the student/s moderator rights to the discussion board forum. This will allow the student to add new threads and to generally manage the forum.

To enable MyUni to give students moderator access

- 1 You will first need to create a Discussion Board forum, including a title and description. Students are unable to create new forums.



Modify



Title

Description

This is the forum where you can introduce yourself to each other. Click on the title to take you into the forum where you make your response.

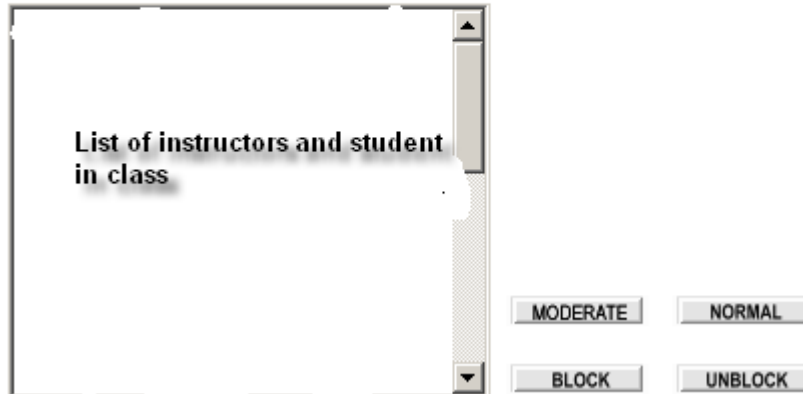
Smart Text Plain Text HTML

Preview

- 2 Scroll down – leave Forum Settings blank as this will become the responsibility of the student moderators.
- 3 Scroll down further until you see the following screen

Forum User Settings:

- a = Forum moderator privileges
- A = Permanent forum moderator
- b = User is blocked from posting



All instructors will have the letter 'A' alongside their name as a permanent forum moderator. To make a student a forum moderator (a), scroll down until you find their name and click on the Moderate button. Then click <submit> and the letter (a) will now appear alongside the student's name.

Provide students with instructions

The example of student instructions below can be modified to suit individual lecturer requirements. For example, it may be required that students are to attach files. If so, (4) would become. "Enable file attachments".

Example student instructions

You have been given moderator rights to the XX class discussion board forum titled XX. This allows you to manage the forum including adding new threads. There are several guidelines for you to note with regard to management of the discussion board forums.

1. Do not allow anonymous postings
2. Do not allow authors to edit or remove their own messages
3. Do not allow authors to create new threads – as moderator you have the right to do this where you consider relevant, but in order to keep the discussions reasonably controlled, it is best not to allow other groups to do so.
4. Do not allow file attachments. This is advisable in order that each message is simple and easy to read.

You will be informed when the forum/s becomes available for you to moderate. In the meantime you can practise using the discussion board forums via your own group discussion board.