



Asking Questions

Discussions—whether they are synchronous or asynchronous--are a great way of involving students in active learning. Here are some suggestions on asking questions as a means of generating dialogue and exploring subject matters. With any class discussion it is important to establish ground rules. Let students know what is expected of them as individuals and as a group.

1. Direct a question to a particular student or group of students. Give them time to collaborate and present their answer.
2. Redirect a question to a student who most likely will know the answer. This implies that peers are a resource for learning
3. Ask open-ended questions to stimulate discussion where the answer requires more than one or two words.
4. Ask divergent questions to stimulate discussion, e.g. one with multiple answers.
5. Wait for an answer. If you want students to ask questions, give them opportunities to do so. If you jump right in with the answer, students soon realize that you will do the work for them.
6. Ask for different opinions about an answer to further discussion.
7. Ask controversial questions to initiate dialogue.

--Jerry Christopherson, Instructional Designer

WebCT Tip of the Day: Discussion Topics

The WebCT Discussions tool allows you to manage different topics or forums where students can publicly post and reply to messages. You may have one topic for Class Introductions, another for Frequently Asked Questions, and maybe a topic for Week 1, Week 2, etc.

1. If the Discussions tool is not yet set up in your course, you can add it through the **Control Panel > Add Page or Tool > Discussions.**

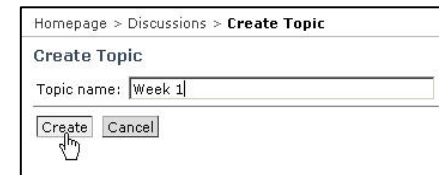


Figure 1 Enter a topic name and click Create.

2. **Enter the Discussions** tool via the Course Menu. You will see a list of available topics.
3. From the **Actions** menu on the right-hand side of the screen click **Create Topic.**
4. Type in a **topic name.**
5. Click **Create (Figure 1).**

By default your new topic will be *Public* and *Unlocked*.

For more help with this tool call Jared (x8929) or Nate (x8928).

This Month's Workshops and Trainings

Title	Date	Time	Place
WebCT: Quizzes	10/4	3-4pm	CS615B
Respondus for WebCT Quizzes	10/4	4-5pm	CS615B
Learning Activities for DE	10/5	12-1pm	CS615B
Excel in a Nutshell I & II	10/11	3-5pm	CS615B
Digital Images: Scanning	10/18	3-4pm	CS615B
Digital Images: Photoshop I	10/18	4-5pm	CS615B
Acrobat PDFs	10/19	12-1pm	CS615B
Web Page Creation I & II	10/25	3-5pm	CS615B
WebCT: Quizzes	10/26	6-7pm	CS615B
WebCT: Assignment Tools	10/26	7-8pm	CS615B

To sign up for these workshops and more, visit our website:
<http://www.uvsc.edu/disted/tetc/workshops>

What's New in the TETC

We have the following new equipment available for faculty use in CS633:

- VHS – DVD duplication equipment
- Large document fed scanner (50pp at a time)
- Slide fed scanner (50 slides at a time)

Did You Know?

When an instructor responds to online discussion questions too quickly, s/he may shut down valuable opportunities for learner-to-learner interaction.

On Topic...

Brookfield, S.D., & Preskill, S. (1999). Discussion as a way of teaching. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.



This newsletter was published for Distance Education by the Technology Enhanced Teaching Center at Utah Valley State College.

For more information on this newsletter or how you can contribute:
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Mail To:

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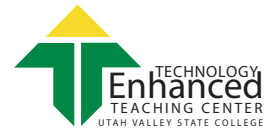
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