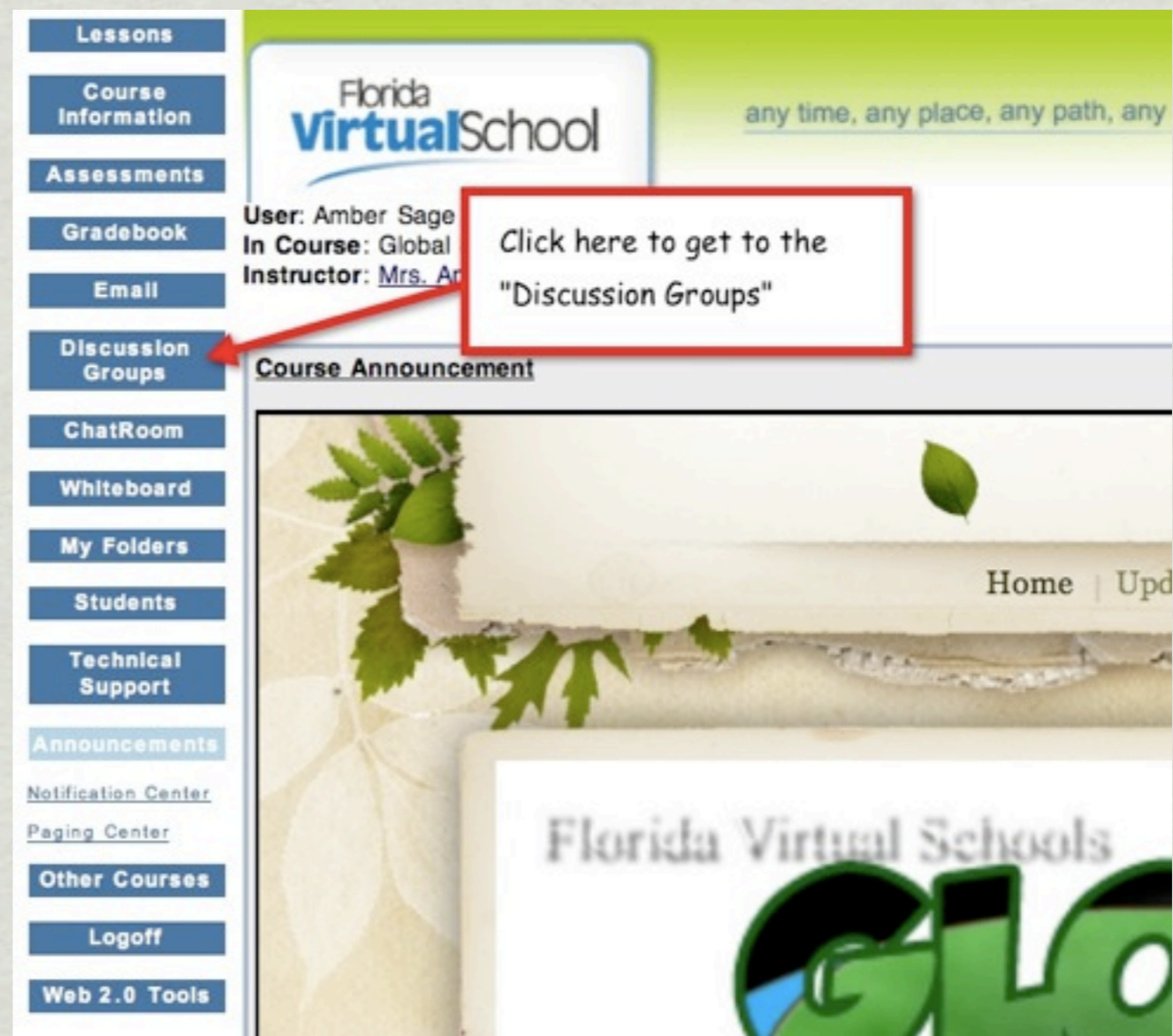


Discussion Groups Tutorial

Mrs. Sage

Discussion Groups

- ✦ Where are the discussion groups?



How to choose?

The screenshot shows a user interface for a virtual learning environment. On the left is a navigation menu with buttons for Lessons, Course Information, Assessments, Gradebook, Email, Discussion Groups, ChatRoom, Whiteboard, My Folders, Students, Technical Support, Announcements, Other Courses, Logoff, and Web 2.0 Tools. The main content area features a header with the Florida Virtual University logo and the slogan "any time, any place, any path, any pace™". Below the header, user information is displayed: "User: Amber", "In Course: G", and "Instructor: M". A table lists discussion groups with columns for Group Name, Subject, Last Update, and Unread Items. Red boxes and arrows highlight specific elements: a box explains that users should click a link based on their last name; another box explains that the highlighted group of posts is for lesson 3.06 and that there are several lessons to scroll through.


Depending on your last name you will click on the appropriate link.

This group of posts is for lesson 3.06. There are several lessons for which we will post, scroll to see.

Group Name	Subject	Last Update	Unread Items
Post here if your last name is A-G	3.06 Food For Thought	Thu Sep 16 09:26:52 2010	202 Unread Items
Post here if your last name is H-O	3.06 Food For Thought	Fri Sep 17 21:32:32 2010	142 Unread Items
Post here if your last name is P-Z	3.06 Food For Thought	Mon Sep 6 13:24:25 2010	151 Unread Items
Post here if your last name is A-G	5.05 What is Terrorism?	Tue Sep 14 12:16:41 2010	147 Unread Items
Post here if your last name is H-O	5.05 What is Terrorism		32

My example

- [Lessons](#)
- [Course Information](#)
- [Assessments](#)
- [Gradebook](#)
- [Email](#)
- [Discussion Groups](#)
- [ChatRoom](#)
- [Whiteboard](#)
- [My Folders](#)
- [Students](#)
- [Technical Support](#)
- [Announcements](#)
- [Other Courses](#)




any time, any place, any path, any pace™

User: Amber Sage
In Course: Global Studies V8 (2186)
Instructor: [Mrs. Amber Sage](#)

Group Name	Subject	Topics	Users
Post here if your last name is A-G	3.06 Food For Thought Last Update: 2010 202 Unread Items	58	All
Post here if your last name is H-O	3.06 Food For Thought Last Update: 2010 142 Unread Items	51	All
Post here if your last name is P-Z	3.06 Food For Thought Last Update: Mon Sep 6 13:24:25 2010 151 Unread Items	51	All
Post here if your last name is A-G	5.05 What is Terrorism?	40	All

My name is Mrs. Sage, so I will go to the section titled "Post here if your last name is P-Z"



What does all this mean?

The screenshot shows a discussion board interface with three columns. The first column lists student names, the second column lists posts, and the third column shows the number of unread items. A red arrow points from the 'New Message' link to the 'New Message' callout box.

First Column	Second Column	
	Jul 29 15:31:28	
	1 Unread Item	
	Last Modified: 2010	
	Food for the	1
	Last Modified: 2010	
	1 Unread Item	
	Meat eating	1
	Last Modified: 2010	
	1 Unread Item	

First Column
The first column includes students names. Blank posts are students who have completed the course.

Second Column
The second column here are the posts students have made. Click on the posts to read through

Once you click on the appropriate link you will scroll down to the bottom.

Location: Post here if your last name is P-Z: 3.06 Food For Thought

Message Viewing: Linear

Make default Viewing

Go

This Activity Section is open to the entire class

[New Message](#) [group chat](#)

[view as threaded](#) [view as roundtable](#)

[group files](#)

My example

[REDACTED]	meatvsvegetables Last Modified: Thu Jul 29 15:31:28 2010 1 Unread Items	1
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] Last Modified: Mon Aug 2 10:48:54 2010 1 Unread Items	1
[REDACTED]	Food for thought Last Modified: Sat Aug 14 08:49:13 2010 1 Unread Items	1
[REDACTED]	Meat eating with balance Last Modified: Mon Sep 6 13:24:25 2010 1 Unread Items	1

Location:

Message Viewing:

Make default Viewing

I will first post my discussion
by clicking "New Message"

This Activity Section is open to the entire class.

New Message	group chat
view as threaded	view as roundtable
group files	

Where does it all go?

User: Amber Sage
In Course: Global Studies V8 (2186)
Instructor: [Mrs. Amber Sage](#)

Messages submitted here are viewable by the entire class.

Subject:

In the space below, enter your message:

The diet that I support is the I have researched and found that for these reasons

Location:

Message Viewing:

Make default Viewing

Write out a subject, and in the space below type out your post. Click "Go" when done.

How do I respond to other posts?

After posting your discussion go back to the main list of posts, read through several and choose two and respond. I will choose one as an example.

3.06 Last Modified: Sun Oct 11 13:43:28 2009 1 Unread Items	1
3.06 Last Modified: Sun Jan 24 12:21:41 2010 3 Unread Items	3
3.06 Last Modified: Wed Oct 21 16:55:30 2009 4 Unread Items	4
3.06 Food for Thought Last Modified: Thu Jul 1 16:36:21 2010 7 Unread Items	7
3_06 food for thought Last Modified: Tue Oct 27 12:23:59 2009 2 Unread Items	2
3.06 Last Modified: Tue Oct 27 12:21:03 2009 1 Unread Items	1
3_6 Last Modified: Tue Jan 5 11:35:59 2010 2 Unread Items	2
3_06 = fun assignment :D Last Modified: Tue Jun 8 12:08:41 2010	2

I have chosen this post! Now what?

This Activity Section is open to the entire class.

Initial Message

Subject: 3.06

Posted by Tue Oct 27 12:21:03 2009.

Message: I support the vegetarian diet. Meat needs on a daily basis, isn't that a shame and that's why the vegetarian diet is the r

In the vegetarian diet you one will be able and still supply the nutritional needs without more limited but meat is not the only thing food restaurant is expensive.

The vegetarian diet has so many good be over it. Next time when you choose between a peach or beef snack, think which one does damage to the world and which does not.

ply the world's meat
our spoiled lifestyle

ables and others
The variety may be
that isn't from a junk

prefer something else

Once I read through the post and decide on an appropriate response, I will click on "reply to this message" to continue and post that response.

[reply to this message](#)

[Previous thread](#) [Next thread](#)

Location:

Message Viewing:

Make default Viewing

Write out your reply here

User: Amber Sage
In Course: Global Studies V8 (2186)
Instructor: [Mrs. Amber Sage](#)

In the space below, enter your message:

Post an appropriate response here in this space. Click "Reply!" to complete your post.

Initial Message

Subject: 3.06

Posted by Tue Oct 27 12:21:03 2009.
Message: I support the vegetarian diet. More and more animals die in order to supply the world's meat needs on a daily basis, isn't that a shame? The animals should not be the victim of our spoiled lifestyle and that's why the vegetarian diet is the right thing.

What are the guidelines?

Discussion Guidelines


[Guidelines](#)

[Starters](#)

[Grading Rubric](#)

Guidelines for Student Participation in Discussions

- Do more than agree or disagree. Justify and support your position with evidence.
- Prepare before participating. Read the assignment or lesson material to familiarize yourself with the topic. Think through your position and supporting evidence.
- Respect others' opinions.
- Read before you send!
- Abide by Netiquette rules. Use proper grammar and punctuation.
- Avoid slang, profanity, or potentially offensive language.
- Be courteous when offering feedback to a fellow student.
- Be gracious when receiving feedback from another student.
- Use students' names when responding to their postings.

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response ideas

Student Starters

Agree

When you support or agree with what someone is saying, you may want to use these response starters:

- I agree with _____. I think his/her strongest point was _____ because...
- I agree with _____. I would also like to add...
- _____ makes an excellent point. I also believe...
- The strongest evidence presented by _____ is the following...

You may need to have something clarified that you "heard" another person say. Try using these starters:

- Am I understanding you to say _____?
- I am intrigued by your response; however, I am not sure I understand what you mean by _____.
- I think I understand your point, but let me restate it just to be sure...

Agree / Disagree

There are times when you may agree with only part of what someone is saying. You can use these starters to help you clarify not only what you agree with, but also what you disagree with:

- _____ makes an excellent point when he/she stated _____. However, I disagree with _____ because...
- I am in agreement with part of your posting. I support you on _____, but I feel differently about _____. Let me explain why...
- I can only support part of your assertion here because...

Disagree

It is all right to disagree, but be sure to point out why you do not see eye to eye:

- I understand what you are saying, but I disagree because...
- You do make a good point; however, I think there is more evidence to support my point. Let me explain further...
- Your argument is well stated, but there is a problem with your evidence. Let me explain...
- I think we are going to have to agree to disagree here. I do not think I will convince you and you are not going to convince me, but I think we both stated our points well.

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How will I be graded?

Online Discussion Grading Rubric

90-100%

- Displays an outstanding understanding of the specific content of the question or comment under discussion.
- Demonstrates superior writing quality/organization.
- Demonstrates expertise in the topic being discussed which might include use of appropriate terminology, references to specific material covered in the lesson, use of specific citations with supporting research/information, etc.
- Displays a respectful tone.
- Provides significant, quality responses to other students, perpetuating, but does not dominate the conversation.

80-89%

- Displays an excellent to good understanding of the specific content of the question or comment under discussion. The writing quality is very good but not as organized or clear as an "A."
- Demonstrates knowledge in the topic being discussed which might include use of specific citations with supporting research/information, etc. Less evidence is provided than in an "A" participation.
- Displays a respectful tone.
- Provides some quality responses to other students, perpetuating but does not dominate the conversation.

70-79%

- Displays a good understanding of the specific content of the question or comment under discussion.
- The writing is acceptable and understandable.
- Attempts to support opinions including references to the lesson material.
- Displays an acceptable tone.
- Attempts to provide quality responses to the students, perpetuating, but does not dominate the conversation.

60-69%

- Displays some understanding of the specific content of the question or comment under discussion.
- Communicates general thought, but writing lacks organization and clarity.
- Opinions are not well supported. There is little or no reference to lesson material.
- May display a questionable tone.
- Provides few, if any, quality responses to other students. The student does not seek to perpetuate the conversation.

50-59%

- Displays a questionable or inadequate understanding of the specific content of the questions or comment under discussion.
- Communicates poorly.
- Support opinions with no evidence.
- Displays questionable or unacceptable tone.
- Does not respond to the postings of other students.



You did it!

- ✦ Wonderful! You have now successfully navigated the discussion groups and are now able to post your own discussions and respond to other students.
- ✦ You will be posting to the discussion groups for segment one, lessons 3.06 and 5.05. Also for segment two, lessons 7.07, 8.08, and 9.01.



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<http://flvsgs.weebly.com/>



<http://tiny.cc/sageappt>