

Evaluating students' responses to students in online discussions

In another discussion model, students read, respond to and post responses to other students.

Consider what you are asking students to do when you ask them to respond to peer postings.

Peer response reflects a more social communication pattern than the classic posting where the faculty is the intended audience. Here you are encouraging community and dialogue. Since students will be engaging with peers you should consider evaluating them based upon qualities such as their *responsiveness*, *timeliness* and *engagement*. You will still need to maintain teacher presence online.

To ensure a lively and active conversation remember that the number of points you assign the discussion is directly tied to the value you place on the activity. Grading student responses may constitute a major part of the grade for participation. In this rubric you may ask students to grade themselves—and one other thread.