**Overview and Assessment for Written Discussion Forums**

Each week, you will be required to post original responses to at least two discussion topics. You will also be required to reply to at least two other students, although I encourage you to reply much more.

There will be 20 points available each week for the written discussion forums. Each posting will be graded based on the following rubric:

**Discussion Post Rubric**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **1 Point** | **0 Points** | **Points Possible** |
| **Application of course material** | Relevant course material (including text, lecture, other reading material, videos) is discussed thoroughly as it applies to the topic. | Relevant course material is only superficially mentioned, or is absent. | 1 Point |
| **Development** | Response is well developed, with relevant examples. | The response does not respond directly to the topic, or the ideas and examples are too brief to address the topic. | 1 Point |
| **Depth of understanding** | Demonstrates an in-depth understanding of the course material and how it relates to the topic. | The response lacks coherence and does not demonstrate knowledge of the course material. | 1 Point |
| **Mechanics (organization, grammar, spelling)** | The response is free of spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors, and is written at a college level. | Mechanical errors significantly impair the reader’s ability to understand the response. | 1 Point |
| **Use of evidence and assessment of validity** | Supporting evidence is used effectively, and if outside sources are included, are evaluated in terms of validity. | Supporting evidence is absent and/or is not valid. | 1 Point |

**Total Possible:** 5 Points

**Grading**

Every week, each of your two original responses to the required topics will receive a maximum of 5 points, so 10 points will be possible for original responses. There will be 10 points possible for replies to other students. I don’t necessarily expect the replies to be as extensive as the original responses to the topics. Each reply will be graded on a scale of 0-5 (see above rubric), and the top 4 scores will count toward the total for the week. For example, if you earned 5 points for your response to Topic 1, 4 points for your reply to Topic 2, 3 points each for 2 of your replies to other students and 1 point each for 3 other replies, you would earn 17 points out of 20 possible for the week.