Discussions

Topics you should have:

Get acquainted

Questions/Comments/Need Help

Place to Socialize (Café, Student Lounge)

Best Practices

Train students to check forums first

Sessions should always be graded or else students won’t go there

Must set time frames and due dates (self-paced online doesn’t work)

Give students a rubric noting how they will be evaluated

Put instructions and grading criteria on forum

Don’t have all topics visible from beginning (leave visible but lock them)

Use release conditions to control access
  
  Completed readings
  
  Submitted assignments

Be consistent with your due dates (same day of the week)

Check box “A user must compose a message before participating in the topic”