

Online Discussion Rubric

<http://history.boisestate.edu/westciv/admin/rubricdiscussion.shtml>

	Superior	Average	Poor
Analysis / Interpretation	The message uses historical sources, including outside as well as required reading. In addition, it demonstrates that the student has gained new understanding of the topic.	Some messages do analysis or interpretation well, but a significant number do not. This might either be because the analysis was not done well, or because it was not attempted (that is, was simply opinion or hearsay).	Messages generally show little evidence of historical analysis, consisting instead of opinion and feelings and impressions.
Scholarly Dialogue	All sources are cited. Argumentation is from the evidence. No <i>ad hominem</i> arguments.	Citations are sometimes missing, are incorrect, or are from a poor source (e.g., a K12 internet site or an encyclopedia).	Messages regularly lack any sort of citation. Arguments are from opinion, not from evidence.
Writing Skill	Sentences are clear and wording is unambiguous. Correct word choice, correct spelling, correct grammar. Writing style can still be conversational rather than formal. The writing does not have to be flawless, but it will be better than average writing.	Ordinary, good writing. Lapses are regular and patterned, but do not undermine the communication or the persuasiveness of the argument.	Grammar, spelling, and/or word choice errors are frequent enough that the sense of the message is lost or muddled.
Participation	Messages contribute to ongoing conversations, as replies to questions or comments, or as new questions or comments. Messages that originate a thread usually generate responses. Student does not start a topic or pose a question and then abandon it.	Some messages contribute to ongoing conversations, but others are disconnected. If the student starts a new thread, sometimes there is follow-up but sometimes there isn't. Student tries to further the class discussion but is not successful a significant number of times. Or, student posts a significant (though still a minority) number of messages that are off-the-cuff and do not contribute substantively.	Messages are unconnected with what others are saying, as if there is no conversation. No replies to other messages. Student never answers someone else's question. When student asks a question, there's no acknowledgment to any responses.

Doing nothing is an F