

Grade Rubric for Discussions

Your discussion grade will depend on relevant use of course concepts, sophistication of analysis, value of the analysis to the reader, and professionalism (RSVP). Each of these categories is weighted equally in your discussion grade and is described in detail below:

RELEVANCE (Relevance, Difficulty of the Undertaking, Originality): First and foremost, your discussion must be relevant to the course material. The tools used in your analysis of the situation presented in the assignment should reflect all relevant topics covered in the course. In addition difficulty of the undertaking and originality will be taken into account.

SOPHISTICATION (Comprehensiveness & Correctness of your Analysis): You should not focus your discussion in a particular topic of the covered material. Most topics are interrelated and a sophisticated analysis should take into consideration all relevant aspects of the problem analyzed.

VALUE (Value to the Recipient, Quality of Intuition, & Feasibility of your Solutions/Arguments): Your analysis of the specific issue should be purposeful. No amount of analytical heavy-lifting can replace clear recommendations that can be implemented by the reader. Your careful analysis must clearly motivate and convey your recommendation and the recommendation should be of value to the reader.

PROFESSIONALISM (Clarity, Style, and Organization of your discussion, Grammar, Spelling, Citations, and Evidence): As professionals, you are all aware of the importance of strong writing skills. Letters, reports, and even short e-mail notes all indicate to others our ability to communicate. People develop opinions about our ability and work ethic based upon our written correspondence. Typographical errors, grammatical errors, misspelled words, or poor diction and writing style dramatically reduce the impact of our work no matter how excellent the content. Thus, the quality of your writing, as well as the content of your discussion, plays a significant role in the grading process. A high score in professionalism implies a discussion with impeccable grammar and spelling. The argument proceeds in a clear manner and is accompanied by a clear and clean physical layout and ease of reading. Write in fully formed sentences and carefully proofread the document to ensure proper grammar and diction. There is absolutely no excuse for grammar, spelling, or diction errors. In addition citation of sources and evidence of the results must be provided.

Finally, **each post must not exceed 300 words**, otherwise you will be penalized by 20%, regardless of the number of words over the limit (e.g., if you are over by 1 word you will still be penalized). I strongly suggest that you craft your discussion response on a word file before you post it on the discussion forum.