What can I do with
SmartSite’s
Discussion Forums?

The discussion forums provide space for structured, threaded discussion.

You might use the forums to... 


- Ask a weekly question and solicit responses from each student in the course. If you wish, you can grade these individual responses.

- For group projects, assign each group its own forum or topic where members can post messages as their work progresses.

- Create forums or topics for key issues in the course and open them up for student discussion. Instead of grading individual messages, you might count student posts in the forums toward the participation grade.

- The discussion forum tool handles media such as Flash animation and images well. Post video or images and solicit multimedia responses from students. Ask students to download an image, annotate or tweak it in their favorite image-editing program, and re-upload it to the forum for further discussion.

- Invite guest experts to participate in virtual class discussions in the message boards. Are your students studying Antarctic science or contemporary African drama? Using the forums, put them in touch with an Antarctic research station or a Senegalese playwright.

- Collaborate with an instructor teaching a class on a complementary subject and invite students to dialogue across courses. For example, Biotechnology or Genomics students might discuss and debate current issues with students in Science and Society or Technocultural Studies. Graduate students in History might “adopt” an undergraduate course and use the forums to help students think through their research topics and point them to further resources.

For more information, visit smartsite.ucdavis.edu.
For assistance with SmartSite, call 754-HELP or e-mail smartsite-help@ucdavis.edu.