

Example rubric for asynchronous discussion contributions

	Unacceptable Response 0 Points	Marginal Response 1 Point	Good Response 2 Points	Outstanding Response 3 points
Mechanics	Many errors in spelling, grammar, or vocabulary; message posted after due date	Some errors in spelling, grammar, or vocabulary; message posted after due date	Few errors in spelling, grammar, or vocabulary; message posted on time	No errors in spelling, grammar, or vocabulary; message posted on time
Clarity	Message is not organized; does not address the original question; includes irrelevant information or rambles on	Message is not well organized; contains some irrelevant information; may have neglected to answer a part of the question	Message is clear and well organized but may include irrelevant information; answers all parts of the question	Message is written clearly and concisely; well organized and complete
Comprehension	Little, if any, understanding demonstrated; evidence to support statements missing	Some understanding of concepts demonstrated; supporting evidence for statements shaky or missing	Demonstrates a basic understanding of key concepts; refers to evidence to support statements	Demonstrates a keen grasp of key concepts; provides evidence to support statements
Original Thinking	Original thinking not demonstrated; no synthesis or evaluation of others' ideas; does not draw conclusions from material	Displays few original ideas; does not synthesize ideas well; conclusions are not supportable; interprets others' ideas minimally	Demonstrates some original thought through synthesis, evaluation, or interpretation of others' ideas; draws conclusions that may be supportable	Displays original thought in synthesizing concepts. Interpreting or critically evaluating the ideas of others, or drawing reasonable conclusions

Source: Teaching and Learning at a Distance, Michael Simonson, Sharon Smaldino, Michael Albright, Susan Zvacek, 2006