

Forum Netiquette

forum: **1a.** The public square or marketplace of an ancient Roman city that was the assembly place for judicial activity and public business. **b.** A public meeting place for open discussion. **c.** A medium of open discussion or voicing of ideas, such as a newspaper or a radio or television program. **2.** A public meeting or presentation involving a discussion usually among experts and often including audience participation. **3.** A court of law; a tribunal.

Forums are about discussion, not contention. In order to enable useful discussion, we hope everyone will abide by these suggested rules of behavior:

1. DO NOT POST IN ALL CAPS. It's the equivalent of shouting. This is a general rule of netiquette on the internet.
2. Do not make off-topic posts in the midst of a thread. If you have an idea you want discussed that does not immediately apply to the current thread, start a new thread. If you're wondering when your class will meet next, or want to talk about some program you saw on TV, use the private messaging system. If someone *e/*se has posted something off-topic, do not point that out in the forum, which only exacerbates the problem. Politely notify them through private messaging or email instead.
3. Do not attack people personally. On the net, this is called "flaming." Posts should advance the discussion and, while it's OK for the discussion to get heated, the heat should be directed towards the issues, not towards other members.
4. Contribute, don't reiterate. A post that says "I agree" is useless. It's OK to agree with a poster, but rather than simply agreeing, extend what they have to say by locating other examples or elaborating on the point.
5. Quote messages if you want to reply to them specifically (see the forum handouts for how to use the quote feature). However, when quoting, edit the quoted material to make it clear what you're replying to and to make your own post as brief and to the point as possible.
6. Respect other forums. Do not post in forums for other classes. If you would like to participate in a forum for another class, contact the moderator of that forum and ask for permission first.