

Using the Discussion Board

Adding and continuing threads

Terminology

- **Discussion Board**

This is the place where all discussions take place. The button is on the left hand side of the course homepage (navigation panel).

- **Discussion Forum**

On the discussion board, there will be different forums with different topics, usually linked from units

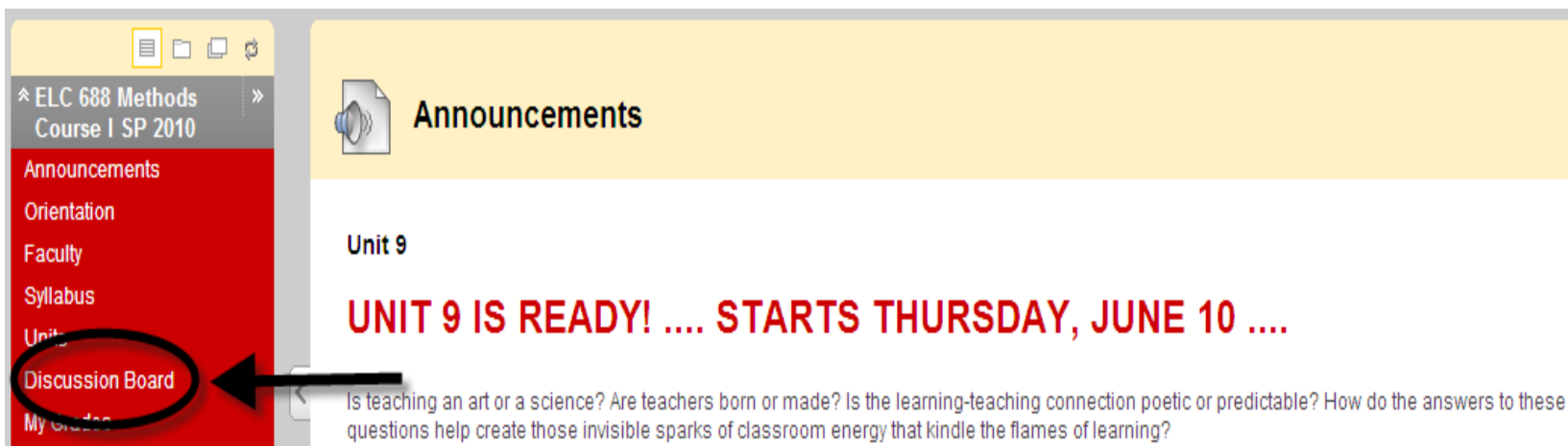
- **Threads**

In each forum, you will have the option to start your own thread. A thread is a group of messages linked to each other by clicking the reply button.

- **Posting (or post)**

A posting is a message that you post on the discussion board.

Discussion Board



The screenshot shows a course homepage for 'ELC 688 Methods Course I SP 2010'. On the left is a red navigation menu with items: 'Announcements', 'Orientation', 'Faculty', 'Syllabus', 'Unit 9', 'Discussion Board', and 'My Grades'. The 'Discussion Board' item is circled in black, and a black arrow points from it to the right. The main content area has a yellow header with a speaker icon and the word 'Announcements'. Below this is a section for 'Unit 9' with the text 'UNIT 9 IS READY! STARTS THURSDAY, JUNE 10' in red. Underneath is a paragraph of text: 'Is teaching an art or a science? Are teachers born or made? Is the learning-teaching connection poetic or predictable? How do the answers to these questions help create those invisible sparks of classroom energy that kindle the flames of learning?'

Click the left hand side of the course homepage

Entering a Forum

- After clicking on the words “Discussion Board” you will see a screen that looks like the following:

See next slide for a screen shot.

Entering a Forum

ELC 688 Methods Course | SP 2010 Discussion Board

Discussion Board

Forums are made up of individual discussion threads that can be organized around a particular subject. Create Forums to organize discussions. [More Help](#)

Search

<input type="checkbox"/> Forum	Description	Total Posts	Unread Posts	Total Participants
<input type="checkbox"/> Unit 8	Discussion Board Prompt: What is your preferred learning style? Is this also your preferred teaching style? How does culture as a whole or the culture of your learning institution affect your curriculum design, lesson plan development, instruction, classroom activities, and content assessment? Reflect upon the lecture, reading materials, video, and handouts to develop a response to the following prompt: How do you or would you teach to different learning styles in your course(s)? What language learning strategies do you employ?			

Click on the title link to enter the forum

What to do next

- Once you are in a specific discussion forum, you have the choice of **starting a new thread** or **continuing an existing thread**. Look at the instructor's directions to know whether or not you're being asked to start a new thread.

Starting a new thread

Forum: Unit 8 List View Tree View

Organize forum threads on this page and apply settings to several or all threads. Threads are listed in a tabular format. The Threads can be sorted by clicking the column title or the caret at the top of each column. [More Help](#)

Create Thread Search Display

<input type="checkbox"/>	Date	Thread	Author	Status	Unread Posts	Total Posts
<input type="checkbox"/>	6/4/10 2:26 PM	Starter 2: Teaching and Learning		Published	8	8
<input type="checkbox"/>	6/5/10 1:29 PM	Teaching for all kinds of learning styles		Published	15	15
<input type="checkbox"/>	6/5/10 12:40 PM	Starter 3: Teaching Styles vs. Learning Styles		Published	20	20
<input type="checkbox"/>	6/4/10 9:17 AM	Starter 1: Video		Published	25	25
<input type="checkbox"/>	6/6/10 3:56 AM	Starter 4: Challenges we face and teacher training		Published	13	13
<input type="checkbox"/>	6/6/10 6:50 AM	Learning Strategies		Published	5	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	6/6/10 8:03 AM	Addressing Multiple Intelligences		Published	3	3

To start a new Thread, click on "Create Thread"

Reading a message in an existing thread

ELC 688 Methods
Course I SP 2010

- Announcements
- Orientation
- Faculty
- Syllabus
- Units
- Discussion Board
- My Grades
- Cyber Security
- References

Forum: Unit 8

Organize forum threads on this page and apply settings to several or all threads. Threads are listed in at the top of each column. [More Help](#)

Create Thread

Thread Actions Collect

<input type="checkbox"/>	Date	Thread
<input type="checkbox"/>	6/4/10 2:26 PM	Starter 2: Teaching and Learning
<input type="checkbox"/>	6/5/10 1:29 PM	Teaching for all types of learning styles
<input type="checkbox"/>	6/5/10 12:40 PM	Starter 3: Teaching Styles vs. Learning Styles
<input type="checkbox"/>	6/4/10 9:17 AM	Starter 1: Video

Click on the existing thread to read the messages.

Explore Available Options

6/4/10 2:26 PM [Starter 2: Teaching and Learning](#) ▾
6/5/10 1:29 PM [Teaching for all kinds fo learning styles](#) ▾

+ [Starter 1: Video](#)
+ [Starter 2: Teaching and Learning](#)

List View Tree View



Forum: Unit 8

Organize forum threads on this page and apply settings to several or all threads. Threads are listed in a tabular format. The Threads can be sorted by clicking the column title or the caret at the top of each column. [More Help](#)

Create Thread

Search

Display ▾

Thread Actions

Collect

Date	Thread	Author	Status	Unread Posts	Total Posts
------	--------	--------	--------	--------------	-------------

Down Arrows
Mark as Read
Mark as Unread
Set Flag
Clear Flag


Collect
Viewing messages in one page
Printing

Search
By author, topic and date

Down Arrows
Select which messages to display for viewing

Responding to a message

- If you want to respond to a message that someone else has posted, click the **“Reply”** button.



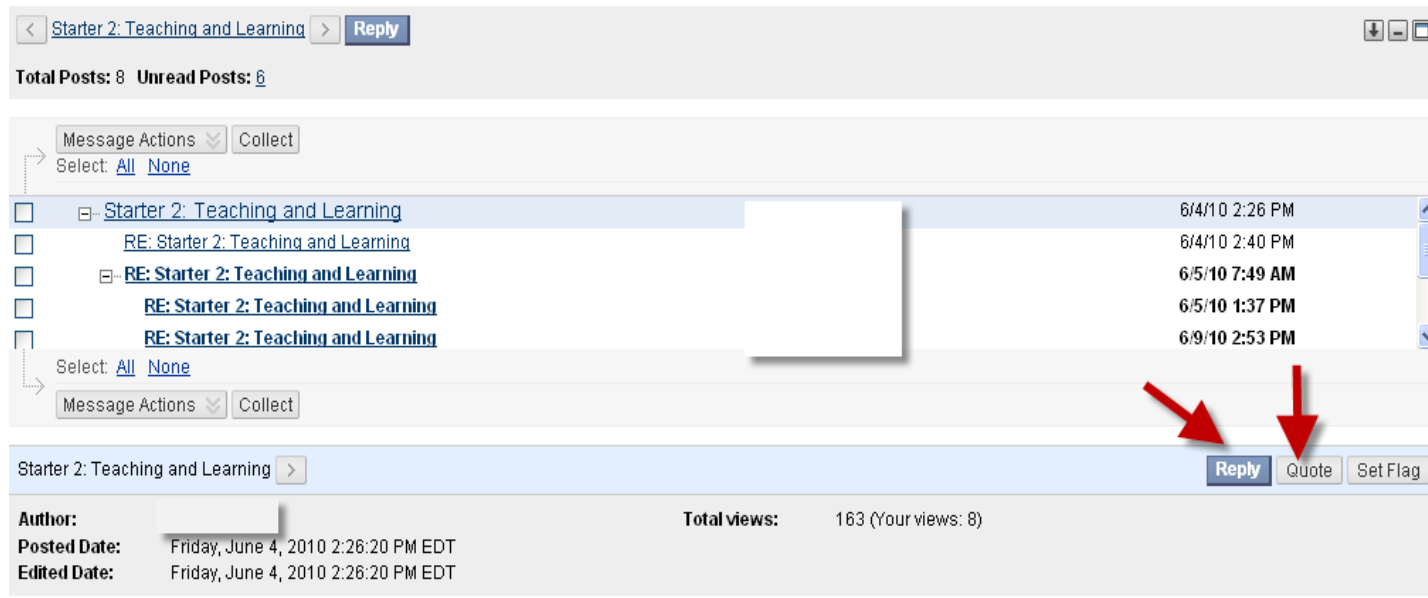
The screenshot displays a forum interface for a thread titled "Starter 2: Teaching and Learning". At the top, there is a navigation bar with a back arrow, the thread title, and a "Reply" button, which is pointed to by a red arrow. Below this, it shows "Total Posts: 8 Unread Posts: 6". The main content area contains a list of messages with checkboxes on the left and timestamps on the right. The messages are:

Message	Timestamp
<input type="checkbox"/> Starter 2: Teaching and Learning	6/4/10 2:26 PM
<input type="checkbox"/> RE: Starter 2: Teaching and Learning	6/4/10 2:40 PM
<input type="checkbox"/> RE: Starter 2: Teaching and Learning	6/5/10 7:49 AM
<input type="checkbox"/> RE: Starter 2: Teaching and Learning	6/5/10 1:37 PM
<input type="checkbox"/> RE: Starter 2: Teaching and Learning	6/9/10 2:53 PM

Below the message list, there are "Message Actions" and "Collect" buttons, and a "Select All None" option. At the bottom of the thread, there is a "Reply" button, also pointed to by a red arrow, along with "Quote" and "Set Flag" buttons. The footer of the thread shows the author's name, the posted date (Friday, June 4, 2010 2:26:20 PM EDT), the edited date (Friday, June 4, 2010 2:26:20 PM EDT), and the total views (163, with 8 views from the user).

Responding to a message

- A new blank page will open. The message you are responding to will follow the Reply page. If you want to refer to the previous message, click **Quote**.



The screenshot shows a forum thread interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a back arrow, the text "Starter 2: Teaching and Learning", a right arrow, and a "Reply" button. Below this, it says "Total Posts: 8 Unread Posts: 6".

The main content area shows a list of messages. The first message is "Starter 2: Teaching and Learning" with a timestamp of "6/4/10 2:26 PM". It has a sub-message "RE: Starter 2: Teaching and Learning" with a timestamp of "6/4/10 2:40 PM". There are two more sub-messages, both titled "RE: Starter 2: Teaching and Learning", with timestamps of "6/5/10 7:49 AM" and "6/5/10 1:37 PM". The final message in the list is "RE: Starter 2: Teaching and Learning" with a timestamp of "6/9/10 2:53 PM".

At the bottom of the thread, there is a navigation bar with a back arrow, the text "Starter 2: Teaching and Learning", a right arrow, and three buttons: "Reply", "Quote", and "Set Flag". Two red arrows point to the "Reply" and "Quote" buttons.

Below the navigation bar, there is a section for message details:

Author: [redacted]
Posted Date: Friday, June 4, 2010 2:26:20 PM EDT
Edited Date: Friday, June 4, 2010 2:26:20 PM EDT

Total views: 163 (Your views: 8)

Composing a message

- After you click the **Thread** button to add a new thread or click the **Reply** button in an existing message, a page similar to an email compose page will open. Work the same way you would work when composing an email message:
 - Write a topic in the subject line
 - Greet the person (Dear Name)
 - Provide a context for your message
 - Sign your message (Thank you, Your Name and Country)
- When you finish composing your message, hit the Submit button.

See the next slide for an example.

⚡ Indicates a required field.

Cancel Save Draft **Submit**

1. Message

* Subject:

View Original Post

Click here to view the original post

Message

Visual Editor is: **ON**

Normal 3 Arial B I U abc x₂ x² [List icons] [Link icon] [Image icon] [Table icon] [Code icon] [Undo icon] [Redo icon] [Bold icon] [Italic icon] [Underline icon] [Text color icon] [Background color icon] [Link icon] [Image icon] [Table icon] [Code icon] [Undo icon] [Redo icon]

Dear Lori,
This is a practice message

Thanks,
Alicia from Ecuador

Path: [body](#)

2. Attachments

Attach File

3. Submit

Click **Save** to save a draft of this message. Click **Submit** to submit the post. Click **Cancel** to quit.

Cancel Save Draft **Submit**

Click on the **Submit** button after you have composed your message.

Composing a message

- Note that you can also paste a message that you have previously written in Microsoft Word into your discussion board message. *It is better, though, to type the message in Notepad (as text only) before pasting it into Blackboard.*

Postings

- The quality of a message or posting depends on the criteria or instructions that your instructor has set for a specific class activity. Follow the instructions for posting for each forum carefully.
- Generally, postings are messages that contribute to the class. You will be graded for these contributions.
- The discussion board is NOT a chatroom. The discussion board is like a classroom. It is the place where class discussions take place.

Postings

- Many times, you will be asked to read or prepare something prior to posting a message to the discussion board.
- Your postings should show that you have read assigned materials, that you have done your homework or that you understand the content of the class.

Good and Not So Good Postings

- **Good**

Hello,

This is Silvio. I agree with the author of ____, but I do not think his generalizations about ____ apply to my culture. He probably had a different experience while living in ____.

What do the others think?

Looking forward to your comments.

Silvio

- **Not So Good**

- Yes, me too.

Last notes

- In some discussion forums you will be asked to continue threads and some you can feel free to add your own threads. Be sure to read the directions for each forum before you enter and start posting messages.

HAVE FUN ON THE DISCUSSION BOARD!