Topic: Discussions

The Discussions tool allows you to open up a conversation with the students in the course on a specific topic.

You can find the Discussions tool under Communication on your Navigation Bar.

In D2L Brightspace, you can filter discussions by Unread and Unapproved. You can also see discussion-specific statistics such as amount of Threads, Posts, or the Last Post in a discussion.
Creating a Discussion

Start creating your discussion by clicking **New** and **New Topic** under the **Discussion List** tab in the Discussion homepage.

A new page will appear where you will fill in all the **Properties** for the new topic.

A **Forum** will be needed for your topic. If you haven’t already created one, you can do so where you create your topic.

- A Forum is just a place holder for your topics.
The **Visibility** of the discussion tells us when the discussion is going to be available.

- It can always be available, you can hide it, or you can have specific days where it can be visible and be taken down.
There are also **Locking Options**, which are close to **Visibility** options, but a little different.

- Locking the discussion makes it unavailable for students to make any more submissions after you lock it or pick a specific date for it to become locked.

The **Restrictions** tab at the top of the page gives you the options of changing the **Group Restrictions**. Adding **Group Restrictions** allows the discussion to only be open to a group you have already created.

- Clicking **Add Groups** will bring up a new window where you will be able to select your group.
**Discussions List**

The **Discussions List** will display all of the discussions you have made.

Here you can edit your discussions and copy, reorder, or delete them.
**Subscriptions**

The **Subscriptions** page shows you all of the topics/forums you have subscribed to.

- To subscribe to a topic/forum you must click the star next to it. It will then appear as yellow and not grey.

In the **Subscriptions** page you can also **unsubscribe** and **change** some of your notification settings for your subscribed topics.

**Group Restrictions**

The **Group Restrictions** page is where you can limit the discussion topic to certain groups that you have made.

Choose the groups you want the discussion to be restricted to and click **Save**.
Statistics

The **Statistics** page shows all of the data from the forums and topics you have created.

- You can see your total messages, pinned messages, and unapproved messages.
- The statistics can be shown by the **Users** or **Forums and Topics**.
Restoring Discussions

In D2L 10.3, you are able to restore discussions that you have deleted. To do so:

1. Select the **More Actions** menu and select **Restore**

![More Actions menu]

2. The Restore Forums and Topics page will open, find the forum you wish to restore, and select the **Restore** button

![Grid View Table]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forum &gt; Topic</th>
<th>Deleted By</th>
<th>Date Deleted</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test Forum &gt; What do you think of the MSLUM logo?</td>
<td>Ethan Reinertson</td>
<td>Apr 24, 2014 11:04 AM</td>
<td>Restore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Favorite Musical Composers &gt; Who is your favorite musical composer?</td>
<td>Ethan Reinertson</td>
<td>Apr 24, 2014 8:51 AM</td>
<td>Restore</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grid View

With D2L bringing back grid view, there are a couple of things that can be done to see discussions in grid view. Users can now set their preference as far as how they want to view their discussion topics

**Default Grid View**

1. To change the default view, start out by going to the **Account Settings** for your profile.

![Account Settings]

2. At the top of the page, click on the **Discussions** tab.
3. Under the Discussions tab, focus on the Default View heading. To change your default view to Grid View, make sure you have it selected.

4. Click Save and Close at the bottom to save your changes.

Viewing in Grid View

If you didn’t want to set the default discussion view as grid view, you can still view topics in grid view.

1. Click on Discussions under the Communication dropdown in the navigation bar of the course.

2. Click on the dropdown arrow next to the name of a topic. Choose View Topic in Grid View.
3. In the discussion settings, you can change your personal settings to Grid View as well as change the specific Grid View settings.

Note: If you plan on using the grid view, make sure you don’t have pop-up’s blocked on your browser.

For More Information

Please contact the Office of Online & Extended Learning at support@mnstate.edu or 218.477.2603 if you have questions about this material.