Discussion Boards: Closing the Gap

Jennifer Kane, PhD
Interim Associate Dean
College of Education and Human Services
Problem

- Responding to individuals responses on a discussion board forum was very time consuming.

- Comment from student:
  - “While I enjoy learning what my classmates have to say about certain topics, I miss hearing what my instructor has to say . . . “
  - “I only know what a few of my classmates think about a topic because it would take too long to read all of their posts.”
Solution

- To “close the gap” I started creating what I call a *Discussion Summary Paper* that I send out to all students at the conclusion of a discussion board forum.
  - Look for common themes
  - Clarify misconceptions, policies, laws, etc.
  - Provide additional information/resources for areas that don’t seem to be clear to students
  - Provide and share your perspective on a topic