



Discussion Boards: Closing the Gap

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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