How to Earn Extra Credit Points on Your Discussion Postings

Business and Society (Business 21) De Anza College Summer 2017

Don’t let the casual tone of the discussion posting titles in this course fool you. I am expecting scholarship. I am expecting evidence. I am expecting good grammar, sentence structure, and word choice. I am expecting correct spelling. I am expecting all this and more. If you give what I am expecting, you can earn crazy extra credit points on your discussion postings. If you give me less than I am expecting, you will get 1, 2, or 3 points. Discussion posts that exceed the minimum are the only way to earn extra credit points in this class difficult, so I urge you to rack up as many extra credit points as possible with each discussion post. They will be your insurance policy against a poor or lackluster performance on the final exam.

I am expecting honesty and integrity. I am expecting you to personally compose and type every word in every sentence. Plagiarism (using the words of others and representing them as your own) will get you zero points. Cutting and pasting from materials you find on the Internet will get you zero points. Using papers you find posted on the Internet, in whole or in part, will get you zero points. Using the same words as another student in this class will get you and they zero points. So don’t share your discussion posts with other students. If you do, and they use your words, you will earn zero points for your posting.

Rule #1: Answer every sub-part of the full prompt. Don’t just answer the question in the title.

For example, the title of the first discussion posting is “What’s Your Favorite Business?” But the full prompt is “What’s your favorite business? Why?” This discussion posting is worth two points. But if you say “Starbucks,” you’ll only earn one point. You have to answer the “why” part of the full prompt to earn the second point. If you say “Because their vanilla latte is delicious” you’ll earn the second point.

Rule #2: The more you say, the more points you will earn.

But if for example you gave me an original (you wrote every word), scholarly, 250 word position paper about why Starbucks is one of the most admirable companies in the United States today, you might earn 35 points: that’s 2 points for full credit plus 33 extra credit points! I currently do not have in mind any upper limit on the number of extra credit points a student might earn for a discussion post. It depends on three things: How good it is, how original it is, and how long it is. A perfectly-written and 100% original posting is likely to earn one point per sentence. Less-than-perfectly written and less-than-100%-original postings will earn less than one point per sentence.

What I Mean By Original

All I mean by original is what originality score does your posting earn on the TurnItIn website. A posting with an originality score of less than 20% will likely earn zero points. A posting with an originality score of 50% or above will likely earn one point for each well-written sentence that contributes efficiently to achieving the objective of the posting.

Rule #3: Always Assume Your Objective Is to Persuade a Skeptical Reader.

If you are responding to the first prompt, you should try to convince the skeptical reader that that should be their favorite business, too. The skeptical reader is one who does not agree with you when they begin reading your post, but are open to being persuaded. In order to persuade them, you should give them lots of persuasive evidence why your position is the correct one. And you should organize your evidence and your arguments so the reader can easily follow what you are saying. Good organization and clarity of writing will make your posting more persuasive.