

## OVERVIEW OF PEER ADVICE FOR THE DISCUSSION BOARD

MICROESSAYS	RESPONSES
<p><b>CHALLENGE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid the “easy” topic and going for something more difficult / Controversial topic</li> <li>• [Provide a] synthesis of new ideas</li> <li>• Take a stance / Have a bold opinion.</li> </ul> <p><b>USE THE COURSE READINGS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use supporting evidence / Draw on multiple sources to reach conclusions</li> <li>• Differentiate between your own thoughts and the text so the essay is more clear and readers can distinguish between the writer’s ideas and the ideas from the text.</li> <li>• Compare or contrast your ideas against the authors.</li> </ul> <p><b>Focus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essays should carry a clear driving point / Stick to the point throughout the essay. / Be more specific to your point.</li> <li>• Isolate one specific idea or claim from the reading on which to expand</li> </ul> <p><b>ILLUSTRATE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use clear metaphors, personal observations, or thought-provoking questions to enable the reader to understand your perspective</li> <li>• Be creative: current events and metaphors / Metaphors—they make concepts easier to understand / Real world examples and/or metaphors</li> <li>• Connect personal or real world examples into the essay. / Usage of personal experience</li> </ul> <p><b>AVOID PADDING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A good balance of quotes, don’t completely reiterate the author but use quotes where they are helpful</li> <li>• Shorter quotes—don’t have your entire microessay be quotes.</li> <li>• Avoid summaries, we all have read the article / Avoid summarizing the article but instead offer original thought</li> <li>• Avoid repeating arguments. Saying the same thing over and over to fill space does not work.</li> </ul> <p><b>POLISH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catchy title / A good title so that your stands out against the other posts</li> <li>• Use an attention grabbing or colorful opening sentence to draw in the readers.</li> <li>• Spell check! Good grammar.</li> <li>• Punctuation, grammar, etc.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ENGAGE THE AUTHOR’S THINKING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give thoughtful responses             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. that try to spur the conversation and</li> <li>2. that indicate that they actually read the essay</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Take ideas further and bring up new ideas and points of view.</li> <li>• Provide useful ideas/alternative insights / Question the essay’s logic / If the reader does not agree with the position of the writer, give another viewpoint.</li> <li>• Show proof of understanding of the microessay / Give relevant responses to the person’s microessay</li> </ul> <p><b>OFFER HELP WITH PRESENTATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good responses are ones that critique grammar and ideas.</li> <li>• Highlight any grammatical issues, disjointed thoughts / Give feedback on structure and organization. Be specific! / If the reader does not understand the grammar, give concrete examples. For example, “I felt that you had signaled a pause, but there was no comma.”</li> </ul> <p><b>CRITIQUE, DON’T CRITICIZE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ★ Offer constructive criticism ★ / Don’t [just] compliment / Constructive criticism or insight is important / Constructive criticism – points of interest</li> <li>• Constructive criticism – try to be positive and make suggestions / Suggestions rather than criticism (everyone has a right to their own opinion) / Respect a person’s views and form of writing</li> <li>• A positive and a negative comment to even out response</li> </ul> <p><b>MAKE IT USEFUL AND READABLE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specifics – point to specific parts of the paper / Be specific to your points. / When giving feedback be specific when agreeing or disagreeing or liking/disliking the essay</li> <li>• Try to be succinct / Responses are not meant to be another paper. They should be shorter in length.</li> <li>• Spell check</li> </ul>

