

Online Discussions: Small Group Activity Examples

Example #1

Your classmates are valuable sources of advice for you. They are intelligent people who can help you with course concepts and assignments. The purpose of the small group discussion is to get feedback from your classmates and support as you start finding sources for your final paper.

Initial Post:

Use the strategies discussed in this week's tutorials to locate a useful piece of information for your final paper. Begin by breaking the research question down into terms, keywords, and synonyms for those keywords. Post your research question, terms, keywords, and synonyms for those keywords.

Response Posts:

Read the posts of other learners and select at least 2 to provide feedback too. What additional terms and keywords can you offer them? What additional research avenues can you provide to help them narrow their search?

Example #2

Instructor Note: Each student group will work on the same case and then the group will present their solution to the entire class.

Evolutionary biologists have proposed that new kinds of living organisms arise sequentially through time via genetic modification. For example, it is hypothesized that amphibians evolved from fish and that birds evolved from saurischian dinosaurs. By contrast, there are "scientific" creationists believe that all basic kinds of life arose within a six day period.

In your group suggest an investigation plan to test the phylogeny hypotheses in the above statement, reflect on your methodology, and brainstorm a list of characteristics of science and life.

By the end of the week, create a summary of your discussion and findings and present to you peers in the whole class discussion.