**Substantive Posting in Online Forums**

**Definition of substantive:** Having substance; involving matters of major or [practical](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/practical#h1) importance to all concerned. (Mirriam-Webster.com)

**So what is substantive posting?**

Substantive posting can be demonstrated in the following ways.

* Furthering discussions by asking follow-up questions so that your classmates think more deeply
* Shared personal experiences related to the topics discussed
* Suggestions of alternate solutions or constructive disagreements (being mindful of Netiquette)
* References to course readings; application of course readings; asking classmates how they can apply course readings to the questions
* Citing outside academic sources that support your points
* Demonstration of content knowledge through shared personal experiences related to the topics or application of previous knowledge for illustration

Dr. Anthony Patete (2016) suggests the IDEA model; an acronym for the following principles:

**I**dentify, Interpret or Infer the principle being learned.

**D**efine and Dissect the principle being studied.

**E**xplore and Explain the principle being studied and how you think it applies to the discussion forum.

**A**nalyze the concept being discussed; Apply it to a fact pattern and Advocate a position or recommendation.

**In summary, substantive posts are those that move the discussion forward and relate to course content in a meaningful way.**

Here are a few thought starters that might help with your responses:

* What would happen if...
* Other times it may be helpful to...
* My understanding is ... What has been your experience?
* Another thought on this might be to approach it from...
* Is it possible that...?
* Would you consider...?
* I have had a similar experience...
* Could you say more about...
* According to the chapter on….

Remember to be concise, support your statements with cited sources, be respectful, and use proper grammar and punctuation. Discussion posting is an academic exercise to deepen and strengthen understanding of the subject matter.

Reference: Patete, A. (2016, December 15). *Writing a substantive discussion post for an online class forum*. <https://onlinelearningtips.com/2016/12/post-online-class-forum/>