

8 Intriguing Strategies to Continue Discussions

Now that you know how to respond thoughtfully and substantively to a discussion question, it's important to focus on **ending your postings** in a way that **further conversation**.

Effectively encourage your peers to respond to your postings by using one of these strategies to invite further discussion:

- Propose a new idea for feedback.
- Ask for clarification or further explanation about an aspect of the question you had trouble answering.
- Ask your peers to make a connection between the topic and another piece of literature, movie, or something they have personally experienced.
- Invite your peers to draw a different conclusion or share another perspective.
- If you presented an opinion or idea about the given topic that was not addressed in the question, ask your peers to respond to it.
- Pose a follow-up question to the group to expand the conversation or shift it in a new direction.
- Present a controversial idea or statement, and ask students if they agree or disagree with the statement.
- Encourage students to ask questions about the points you made if anything was confusing or unclear.

Examples of intriguing strategies:

“Did anyone else reach a different conclusion based on the reading?”

“I was able to relate this to _____, did anyone else make an interesting connection to the this topic?”

“I am confused about _____. Does anyone have any ideas or insights that might help me understand?”

“Answering this question made me wonder _____?”

“I had a hard time articulating my ideas. Does anyone have a question about my posting or the ideas I communicated in my posting?”

“This topic was not presented in the question, but does anyone have an opinion about _____?”

“On the other hand, has anyone considered _____?”

“It seems like a majority of the class agreed that _____. Does anyone disagree or want to play devil’s advocate?”

“I chose option _____, but I am interested to hear what other students think about option _____.”

“How can we connect this conversation to our previous discussion of _____?”

“Despite feeling passionately about my own view point, I am interested to hear what other students thought about this topic.”

“I would love to hear another perspective on this issue since I had a hard time forming my own opinion.”