



Strategies for Online Discussion Forums

Faculty of Arts – July 16, 2020

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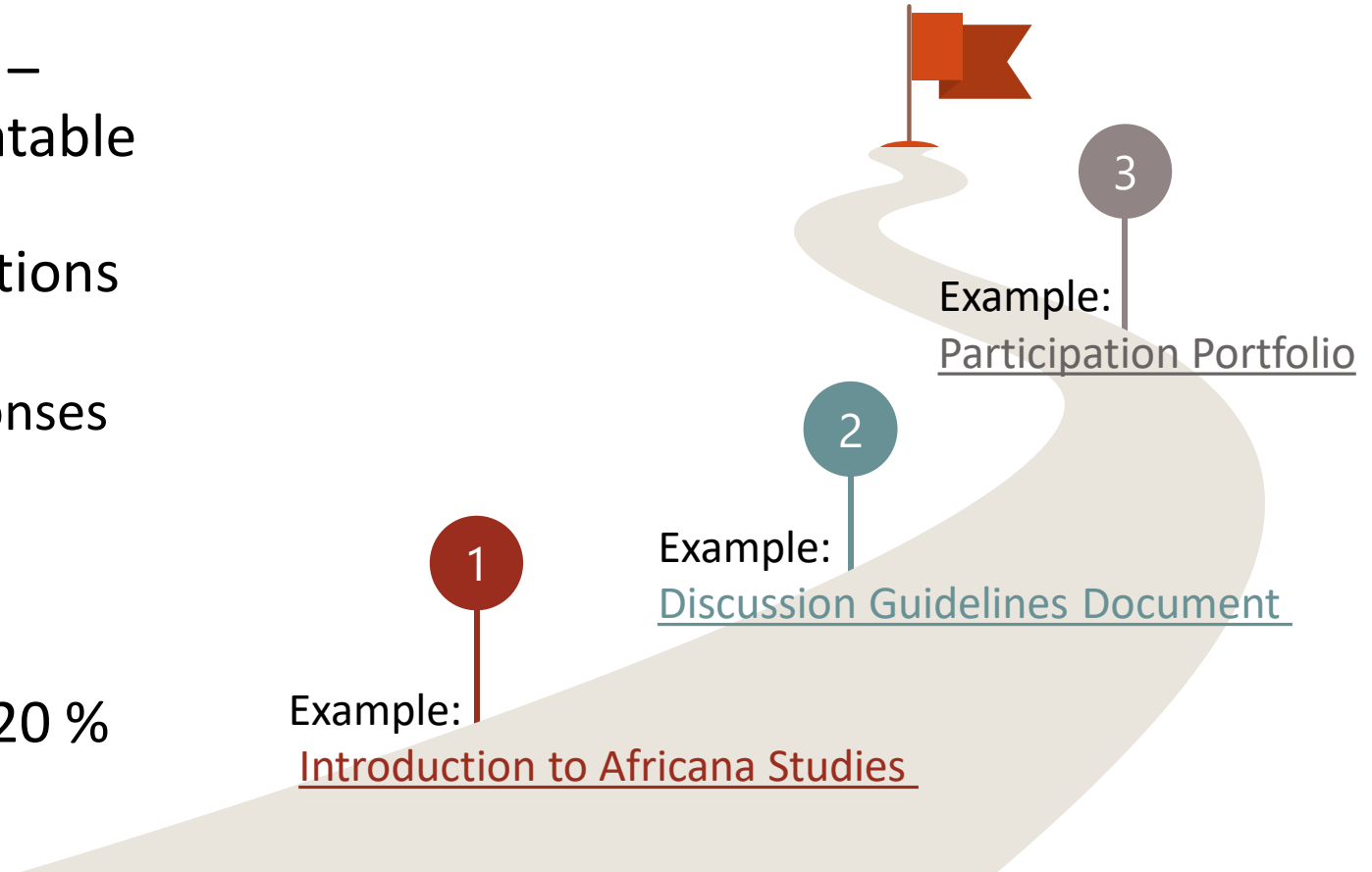
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Planning for meaningful online Discussion Forums

Plan to have:

- 1 Appropriate question prompts – open-ended, meaningful, debatable
- 2 Clear instructions and expectations
 - Ground rules
 - Number of posts and responses
 - Length and format
 - Role and timing
- 3 Appropriate grading scheme – extrinsic motivation e.g., 10 – 20 %



(deNoyelles, Zydney & Chen, 2014; Jowallah, deNoyelles, & Nkansah-Dwamena, 2019; Simon, 2018)

Facilitating effective online Discussion Forums



- Instructor presence online
 - Timing
 - Prompt ([Facilitating questions](#))
 - Wrap-up
- Student-facilitated discussions
 - Connect and elaborate
 - Clear guidelines

Example: [Social Development Studies Courses \(400 level\), University of Waterloo](#)

(Simon, 2018; University of Waterloo, n.d.)

Combining fixed and flexible discussion activities

Consider the following sequence around a fixed activity:



Before

Small group online discussion



During

Plan to share fixed activity



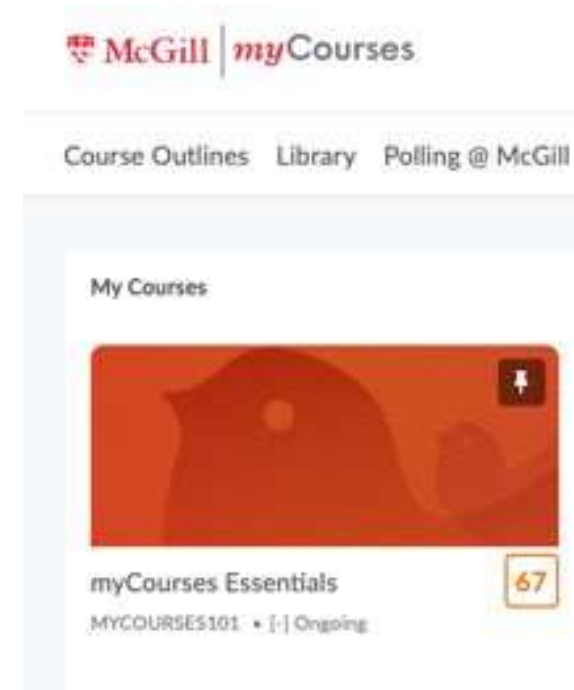
After

Follow-up online discussion



Set-up Resources

- IT Knowledge Base
 - [Creating discussions in myCourses](#)
 - [Discussion settings in myCourses](#)
- myCourses (D2L Brightspace) Tutorials
 - [Tutorial on creating a discussion Forum](#)
 - [Tutorial on creating a discussion Topic](#)
- myCourses Essentials and Discussion Forum







What else would you like to know?

Type your question in the chat window / Raise your hand

To raise your hand:

- Click on 'Participants'  in the zoom control panel
- In the new window, click on the  'Raise Hand' icon

References

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