



# How to Conduct Asynchronous Online Discussions

By

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# Agenda



## Best Practices

Efficient feedback  
Effective online discussions



## Demo

How to create online discussions in D2L

# Efficient Online Discussion Feedback

- Online discussion is **Student Interaction**
- **Don'ts:**
  - DO NOT respond to every post.
  - Do not put an opinion on/give an answer to any discussions
- **Do respond when:**
  - off topic
  - need further explanation
  - contentious issues
  - misconceptions
  - great ideas

# Efficient Online Discussion Feedback

- Dos:
  - Give summary feedback instead of individualized feedback
  - Allow students to submit three the most high-quality posts
  - Encourage students to be the leader/facilitator
  - Encourage different formats of online discussions: video/audio

# Effective Online Discussions

- Be concise
  - Rule of thumb: make only one main point in each posting, supported by evidence and/or an example.
- Focus on add-ons
  - Discussions are NOT for summarization or regurgitation
- Encourage to share their experiences in online discussions
  - Incorporate experiences

# Effective Online Discussions

## Setting up background information

- Textbook or lecture-based
  - Readily available
  - Less engaging
- Scenario-based
  - Having a character in the prompts: If you were George Washington what would you...

# Effective Online Discussions

Type of question	Explanation	Example
Reflection	Reflect on learned topics and relate it to student learning experience	What have we learned so far, and how that influenced your understanding of ...?
Application	Requires application of knowledge	How is ... related to ...? Can you give an example of ... by using your own experience?
Critique	Requires more evidences to disagree with a statement	..., please use valid evidence to critique this statement.
Debate	Requires more evidences to agree or disagree with a statement	..., do you agree or disagree? Please use valid evidence to prove your statements.
Analysis	Requires application of principles in new settings	Compare and contrast ... With ...? Outline/ diagram ...
Synthesis	Requires combining ideas	How would you suggest ...? What might happen if you combine X with Y?
Evaluation	Requires making a judgement	What criteria would you use to assess ...? What is the most important ...?

# Effective Online Discussions

## Discussion types

- Small group online discussions (3 students in a group)
  - Similar to think-pair-share
- Student-led online discussions
- Student create scenario questions

## Other ways of conducting online discussions

- Help seeking
- Café shop/Ice-breaker
- Projects exhibition

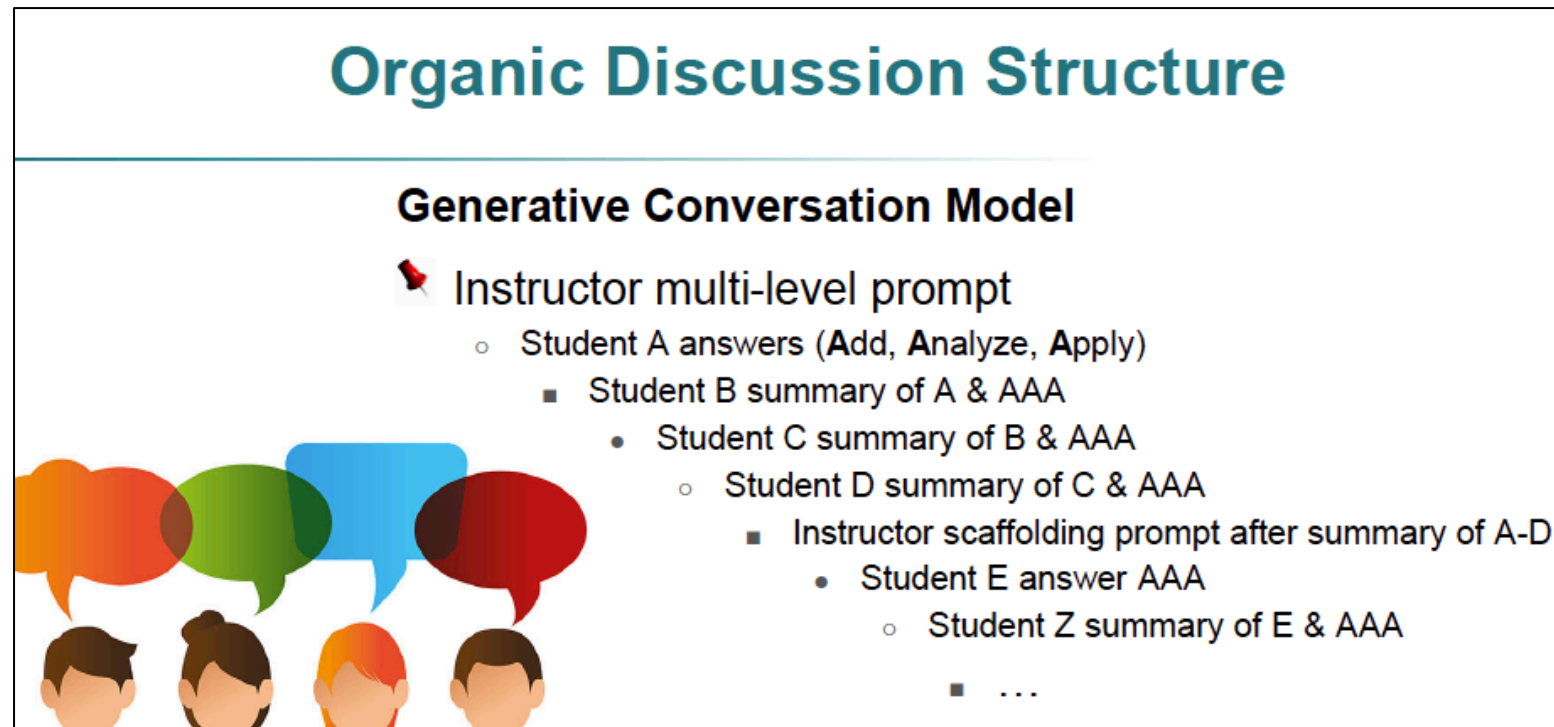


# Effective Online Discussions

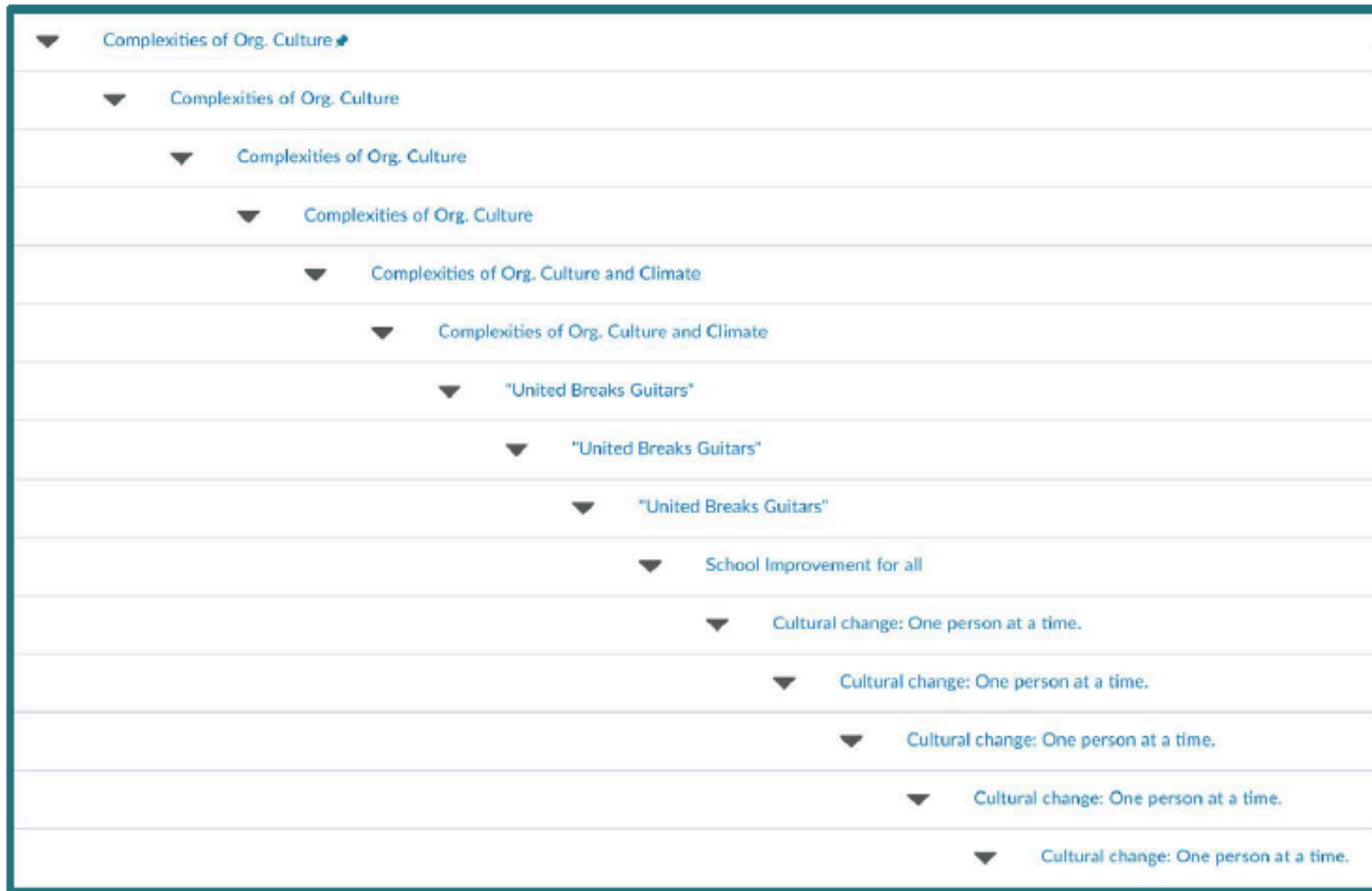
- Half and Half
  - One week for original posts
  - One week for replies
- Give descriptive instruction of how to write posts
  - Summaries
  - Rubrics

# Effective Online Discussions

- Triple A (Add, Analyze, Apply) or SAA (Summarize, Answer, Ask)



Effect



# Demo

