**Planning the Discussion Activity**

1) **Learning Outcomes**

What type of learning do you want students to gain/demonstrate through this discussion (Bloom)

- [ ] Creating
- [ ] Evaluating
- [ ] Analyzing
- [ ] Applying

Learning Outcome: ___________________________________________________________

2) **Content Basis**

- [ ] How will you provide the content information, knowledge students need as the basis for the discussion activity?

  - [ ] Textbook Reading
  - [ ] Textbook
  - [ ] Chapters/pages
  - [ ] Other text-based reading; can include internet sites
  - [ ] Other reading:
    - [ ] Other reading:
    - [ ] Non-literature content or learning objects such as simulations, movies, video, audio, etc.

Learning Object: ___________________________________________________________

Learning Object: ___________________________________________________________
3) Discussion Activity

Here are some ideas to help you determine how you want students to interact with content.

- Evaluate and/or reflect on ideas presented in content sources
- Relate content to current events
- Quote contrasting views
- Present a premise, students are assigned opposite sides to debate
- Present more evidence for a position
- Evaluate or reflect on scenarios or case studies
- Address controversial issues
- Answer an hypothetical question
- Role play (assign a different role to each student in a group to draw out different perspectives)
- Complete online or real-world activities and summarize/reflect on their experiences for the class
- Create their own questions or experiences for others to respond to
- Complete a presentation of other written assignment to be evaluated by other students
- Each student does an initial posting and then a group leader summarizes all postings
- Student self-evaluation or personal reflection (students can reflect on their own postings over time)
- Analyze, summarize content found on a website (either assigned or have student search and find)

Other: __________________________________________________________

4) Experiential possibilities

Do you want to ask students to draw on their experiences? Examples: sharing real-world experiences; asking students to complete a real-world task and share the experience; sharing knowledge of the subject from outside reading; relating the current topic to other topics in the course.

☐ Yes

If yes, how:

☐ No

5) Group Structure

☐ Depending on type of activity, choose an appropriate structure:
☐ Large group, all students participate in one topic in the forum
☐ Large group, all students participate in multiple topics in the forum
☐ Small groups, all groups have same topic
☐ Small groups, groups have different topics
☐ Students choose topics
☐ Instructor assigns topics
☐ Small group postings, large group summary (small group defines and discusses a topic; designated leader posts group’s summary/result to the large group)
☐ Pairs (2 students per small group)

6) Discussion Strategy Decisions

☐ Consider how often discussions will be held
☐ Posting Frequency: decide how many postings students must create, and if they should be 1 original and 2 response postings, or some variation of that
☐ Decide when in the week you want the original postings made by (probably mid-week)