Reconceiving Online Discussions Beyond the Post-and-Reply Model

CUT THE THREAD
one word to describe your impression of discussion forums
a few words to describe why discussion forums fail
The product we developed to address the challenges of discussions in traditional LMSs.

- Research on faculty satisfaction with traditional LMSs
- Proposed solution to shortcomings of discussions in traditional LMSs
- The product we developed to address the challenges
- System walkthrough
- Invite you to experience the product
1. Visualize how discussions are growing and taking shape
2. Identify emerging themes and trending ideas in discussions
3. Make connections between ideas
4. Generate new ideas and knowledge
5. Have meaningful discussions with students

LIMITED CREATIVITY
LACK OF VISUALS
LINEAR APPROACHES
some strategies you use to improve discussion forums
RULE:
you get out, what you set up

Create one initial post by Thursday.
Respond to two classmates by Sunday.

Respond to my post.
Reply to two other students in the thread.
Learning through connections

Pretzl is a cloud-based learning platform that creates visually rich connections between people and ideas to make online discussions, discussions.
RULE:
you get out, what you set up

Create one initial post.
Respond to two classmates.

Respond to my post.
Reply to two other students in the thread.

STEP 1
ESTABLISH
CONDITIONS
to promote meaningful discourse

STEP 2
SHOW
CONNECTIONS
to promote the creation of new ideas
Select a MODE to create the desired environment

- **ENGAGE**: Have a free discussion
- **DEBATE**: Take sides on a topic
- **HOTSPOT**: Add comments to an image
- **GALLERY**: Explore series of images
- **RECORD**: Share through video
- **MICROCHAT**: Say it in under 200 characters
- **GROUP**: Connect in small groups
- **SUBMIT**: Complete assignments
Set the SCORING to encourage the desired outcomes

**AUTOMATIC**

- **MAXIMUM SCORE**
- **IDEAS**
  - Make every idea count
- **REACTS**
  - Motivate students to share early and add interest
- **UPVOTES**
  - Empower students to focus the discussion on their interests
Say Something Different!

Patrick Dempsey @thePATRICK 3 days ago
Giving students the options of sharing images and/or creating images that demonstrate how they think about things can be super helpful and is very learner driven.

I created this image to help me remember the disclosure process. As much as it helped me, I think it can also help others remember the disclosure process.

Show More