

MODULE S3 – ACCESSING AND RESPONDING TO DISCUSSIONS

The Discussion facility allows you to have asynchronous discussions with fellow students and teaching staff.

- Select **Discussion** from the Course Tools list on the left hand side of the screen. Figure 1.
- In the Discussion area you will see the different topic areas available together with details about any **new messages** since your last visit. To enter a topic **click on the topic name**. Figure 2.

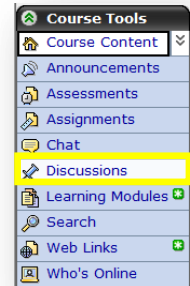


Figure 1

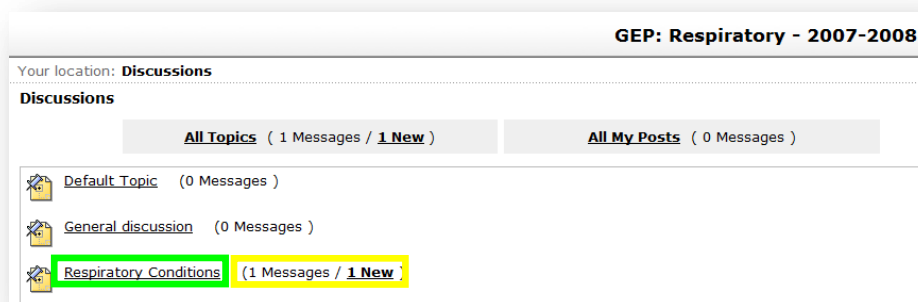


Figure 2

- The **description** tells you more about the topic – whether it is graded, if it can be peer reviewed, any posting restrictions and how users are identified. Figure 3.



Figure 3

- You can create a message to add to the topic by clicking the **Create Message** button. Figure 3.
- Clicking on the **Subject** of an existing thread allows you to read what has already been posted and to then reply. Figure 3.
- You can add attachments to your reply if you wish. Figure 4.



Figure 4

OTHER TYPES OF DISCUSSION

Although the threaded discussion topic is probably the most commonly used your tutor may also create other types of discussion:

BLOG TOPIC

This follows standard blog format by creating a space to allow participants to post a chronological series of entries on a particular topic. Participants can then add comments to any blog entry.

JOURNAL TOPIC

A journal topic provides you with a place for your own writing. The journals can be kept private between the Student and the Section Instructor or shared with the class. These may be used for reflective writing.