

## Tips for Forum Expectations and Etiquette

Forums are often used as an online “space” to discuss course concepts and respond to other students’ ideas, similar to in-person seminars.



Be respectful. Respect different perspectives and use them to help you reflect on your own understanding. Be curious and willing to explore new ideas. Avoid comments that would be considered “unwelcome.” See Brock’s [Student Code of Conduct](#) for examples.



Embrace a growth mindset. A growth mindset is embracing challenge and change. We are not fixed: What we know, what we can do, or who we “are” can change over time—and that’s okay. Growth mindset means that we can change our minds which can help us explore ideas with openness and curiosity, rather than defensiveness.



Use professional language. Know the expectations of your professor. Forums are not informal chats. Use academic language and organize your ideas in a paragraph (or paragraphs). For example, avoid contractions (didn’t, can’t) and provide evidence and explanations for points. The [P.E.A.T. Strategy](#) can help you to fully develop your points.



Observe academic integrity. Similar to other assignments that you will submit for your courses, your forum response is to be your own work. Also, any sources you use need to be cited. Be familiar with Brock’s [Academic Integrity Policy](#). Explore scenarios and resources from Brock’s [Academic Integrity](#) website.



Write it. Save it. Then upload it. Although Sakai allows you to type your forum response directly *in Sakai Forums*, consider writing your response in a Word document first, especially if you’re creating a longer complex forum response. Then, copy and paste your response into the forum.

For technical support on using forums in Sakai, see student help guides available from Sakai.

[https://kumu.brocku.ca/sakai/Post and respond to Forum messages](https://kumu.brocku.ca/sakai/Post_and_respond_to_forum_messages)

<https://kumu.brocku.ca/sakai/Category:Students>



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