Current Events Discussion Board Grading Rubric

Criteria	Unacceptable	Minimally Acceptable	Good (expected)	Excellent
Content Contribution	Posts information that is off-topic, incorrect, or irrelevant to discussion.	Post minimally relevant information or simply repeats (or copies and pastes) information but does not add substantive information to the discussion.	Posts information relevant to the course, is factually correct and contains some analysis; lacks full development of concept or thought.	Posts factually correct, reflective and substantive contribution that addresses relevant issues and advances meaningful discussion.
Initial Assignment Posting (if applicable)	Posts no initial current event story.	Posts a news story with no apparent (or only superficial) relevance to the course or topic. Posts with minimal thought and little apparent preparation; doesn't address all aspects of the task.	Posts a thoughtful and relevant news story and addresses critical aspects raised by the story, although it may lack full development of concepts, ideas or solutions.	Posts a relevant news story that is well developed and fully addresses and develops all aspects of the story.
Follow-Up Postings	Posts no follow-up responses to others.	Posts shallow contribution to discussion (e.g., simply agrees or disagrees); does not enrich discussion.	Elaborates on an existing posting with further comment or observation.	Demonstrates analysis of others' posts; offers new insight; extends meaningful discussion by building on previous posts.
Frequency and Timeliness	Student does not participate at all.	Participates, but does not make all required posts or posts at the last minute. Postings are made only one time (does not check back for responses and follow up posts).	Minimum number of required postings are made, however, some are at the last minute, not allowing others to read, and respond and/or does not respond to follow up posts.	All required postings are made in a regular and timely manner to foster discussion, allow others to read and respond, and the submitter to follow up.
References & Support	Includes no references or supporting experience or does not include hyperlinks as required.	Uses personal opinions or experience (which may not be supported by research) but offers no references to readings or research to support position.	Incorporates some references to text or course work justifying their position and/or included relevant personal experience.	Uses scholarly references, including literature, readings, or relevant personal experience to support comments.

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Clarity & Mechanics	Posts are inappropriate or inadequate (i.e.., I agree with Bob) or excessively long posts that are unorganized, rude or contain content that has multiple errors or may be inappropriate.	Posts are too brief to adequately express the essence or concept. Communicates in friendly, courteous and helpful manner with some errors in clarity or mechanics.	Posts are appropriate in length to express the essence or concept. Contributes valuable information to discussion with minor clarity or mechanics errors.	Contributes to discussion with clear, concise comments formatted in an easy to read style that is free of grammatical or spelling errors.