

## Discussion Board Netiquette

Transcript of video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwdqQjCfWSc>

Most of us are familiar with society's guidelines known as etiquette. Online communication has its own rules and guidelines for etiquette; these are often referred to as 'netiquette'. Keep these rules in mind for any kind of online communication including e-mail, discussion board posts and other online contact with your classmates or instructor.

First, **avoid abbreviations** that you might use when texting around Facebook, like talk to you later, laugh out loud or other abbreviations. Not everyone knows what these mean, and, even if they do, avoiding them will help communicate more clearly what you really mean.

Second, **make use of the subject line**. Imagine walking into a library where none of the books have titles on the covers. You would have to open every book until you found what you're looking for. If you don't give your post a subject line, yours will have to open your post to see what you've said so always given readers a clue about what's inside.

Third, it's important to know that **all caps is like yelling at someone**. You probably wouldn't yell at your classmates during an in-class discussion so please avoid doing it online.

Next, **be careful with joking or sarcasm**. Since these frequently rely on non-verbal facial cues or tone, they often don't come across very well in online communication. It is easy for someone to misunderstand your meaning and even become offended because they couldn't tell that you were joking.

Finally, **be frugal with exclamation points**. Overusing these gives a much greater sense of urgency to your message than it likely deserves. Plus, it can make you seem like you are yelling or that you lack maturity as a writer.

By keeping these simple guidelines in mind, and remembering why we hold discussions you can help make your online course a truly meaningful experience for everyone involved.

Now, go discuss something.