Discussion Boards (Read/Respond Assignments) Activity Sheet

A read/respond assignment can be a difficult assignment. A lot of students might find that they do not know where to start such an assignment. The R.E.A.D. method might be able to help with this problem. The R.E.A.D. method stands for Recall, Explain, Apply, and Discuss. This tool is designed to help you respond to any reading you may be assigned on blackboard. However, the first step in any such assignment is to read the required reading. Always, remember to follow the guidelines set forth by your instructors.

Recall

The first step in the R.E.A.D. method and the step after reading the required text is to recall the information you have learned. When you recall this information needed to formulate your post, you are introducing the definitions, statistics, and concepts that you learned in your reading:

- The opening sentence recalls the information or topic of the question as well as identifying the assigned reading
- Do not simply reword the question, but acknowledge the topic while taking a position and asserting your opinion

Explain

Here you will explain what the information means. After you have addressed the post topic and recalled the necessary information, then you need to explain what the terms, information, and the concepts mean:

- Define the object or topic is and also the context of the topic
• Explain the context of the topic. This could be in terms of its history, location, field of study, etc.

• Explain any specifics about the topic

• Quote or cite any information you may need

Apply

Now it is time to apply these terms and definitions to a specific concept or situation in such a way that it shows its relevance to the larger topic of the course. Try to demonstrate the cause and effect of the concept of the topic. Apply the information in a way that solves or addresses the problem:

• In applying the topic move from the general to a specific example either from the assigned reading or one of your own

• Create a specific argument in answering the topic question

• Further explain the point of view with a conditional statement. A conditional statement uses an “if...then...” format. This will help to further illustrate the point of view while directly relating to the topic

Discuss

The last step of this method is to discuss and analyze the topic by expressing a particular viewpoint and/or the opinion. You can do this by making use of the gathered information. Determine the logic or basis for the opinion or idea expressed in the post.

• Trying to answer these questions might help you discuss the topic:
  ○ How does the application effect the larger topic?
  ○ How do you feel about the topic or the context?
  ○ What is your opinion of the topic?
  ○ What is the logic of the topic?
Try it on Your Own

Now that you are familiar with the R.E.A.D. method, try applying it to a discussion board assignment you have for a class. If you don’t have any current discussion board assignments due, read the following article (http://www.sheilaheti.com/whygoout2/) and write a practice discussion board post in the given space below.

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