



101 **creative** ideas for
forums

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My intentions

*You might
want to adjust
your monitors!*

I hope to be able to give you a few ideas to
take away and use in your teaching

For use in blended teaching, or can be adapted for remote learning

Note - Most of these ideas will need careful explanation in your forum introduction

**Buy one get two
free!**

Some of these ideas you can
use for **Glossaries** and
Databases too!

How to set up Forums

[http://docs.moodle.org/
22/en/Using_Forum](http://docs.moodle.org/22/en/Using_Forum)

How to set up Groups and Groupings

http://docs.moodle.org/22/en/Grouping_users

3 Parts

General ideas

Subject specific examples

Using custom Scales for Ratings

General

ideas

Anticipate

Discuss what you think will
happen next

1

Blog

Assign different students to blog about
the lessons you have taught

Break it down

Three or four persons selected from a group
present different aspects of a
problem for others to discuss

Chat back

In a face-to-face lesson, pupils post questions.
You reply verbally and the pupil posts a summary

Close a forum

Click the **prevent** icon (X) in the student role for **Start new discussions & Reply to posts** in the forum administration permissions

Community

Create off topic discussions for your students

Convert

A graph into text

Convert

An **image** into **text**

Convert

Text into a flowchart

Convert

Text into a graph

10

Convert

Text into a storyboard

11

Convert

Turn text into mind maps then
upload the image and rate
each other

Counting quality posts

Only **rate** quality posts, and use count of ratings to record the total. Set the **Scale** as the max number of posts to count

Diary

Limit posts **to one per day**; each pupil starts one discussion, replying to their own, including the day of the week in the title

Discussion Carousel

Normal forum, tell pupils they can only
reply to the previously unanswered post,
then have to make a new post

Editing time

Q & A. Use the 30 min editing time to **improve answers** after posting

Eyes off

Teacher only forum - hidden (from students) in the forum settings

Film the teacher

Ask pupils to film your lessons
and upload to a forum

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Front load the lesson

Post material to be covered for pre-
reading / pre-questioning

Help!

Help desk for homework
support

Hierarchy

Pupils **arrange** content in a list going down in levels of importance. Q & A

Ideas

Have students **generate ideas** on a topic or on a reading that you will address in class

Hypothesise

What would happen
if.....dinosaurs still existed?

Jobs

Give students **specific jobs** for a forum. E.g..
Summarise, illustrate, extend, exemplify etc

Learning Style Selector

Teacher posts material in **a variety of formats**

- Written, audio, video. Pupils reply to the post with the style that helped them the most

More on custom
scales **later!**

Line-up

Use a custom scale to say how much you
agree or disagree with a particular
statement

News

Automatically created, for general announcements. - Use it! A great way to keep students updated

One thing

I learned today was.....

28

One-to-One

Pair up - One half of the students start a discussion to explain an idea, the other half reply to check understanding

Opinions

Find out **your students' opinions** on
content you have recently taught

Out of time

Continue a verbal class discussion if
you run out of time

Pupil voice

Get pupils involved - ask
them for ideas

Quarantine

Quarantine a post by **splitting it**
and **moving it** to a hidden forum

Quiz show

Get students to

pose each other questions

34

Revision

Arrange in pupils in groups. Pupils
research, discuss and summarise
a particular revision topic

Revision again!

Teacher posts exam practice questions. Q & A type forum

36

Self selector

Set different tasks as new discussions. Pupils

choose which to complete (5 out of 8) to cover the content

Sequencing

Lots of information jumbled up in the introduction. Q & A forum where they have to post in the correct order

Similarities and differences

Teacher posts two concepts. Pupils born in an **even** month, reply with similarities, **odd** reply with differences between them

Snowball

Teacher posts material. First **two** pupils reply 'I've got it', and start new discussions summarising adding new content. Next **four** reply and so on....

Spotlight

Two students post **opposing** views, followed by open discussion by the rest of the group

Suggestions

For course improvements

42

Surgeries

Pupils post their learning 'problems' for the teacher (or others) to answer

Teach the Teacher

Make the learners **teachers** on your course. See what they come up with

Today we....

Teacher posts what was done in a face-to-face class each day, for revision and **absent students**

Video Diary

Pupils upload a video diary
and **review** each other's

46

Vocab

Improve each others posts to
describe an idea or create a story

**Subject
specific
examples**

Art

Find a **picture** that is a good example of a particular use of Line / Tone / Form and explain why

Art

Pupils **upload a photo** of their work, and describe their creative process

Art

Teacher posts an art work, **pupils describe it**
with thoughts and feelings

Business studies

Upload video interviews
with business leaders

51

Chemistry

What is *your* favourite
element *and why?*

52

Design / Technology

Pupils **post photos of their projects**
after every lesson, to show development

Drama

Collaboratively write a play

54

Drama

Give pupils a character and situation. Their discussion forms 'Live Scripts' that are acted out later

Drama

Post a video clip of a particular piece, pupils
discuss the lighting and post similar examples

English

Debate on a topic

57

English

Describe a typical day in your life as if you are one of Shakespeare's characters

English

Distil a section of prose into 140 character

Tweet and post as a reply

English

Haiku poems

Starting their own,

others reply,

'till three lines are written.

60

English

Post a book review

61

English

Post separate words as new discussions
and have students **define** or give uses for them

English

Respond to each post from the point of view of a particular character from the book you are studying

English

Use this image as a prompt to
write a short story

ESL / EAL

Idioms - give an example of
an idiom in context

65

Geography

Treasure Hunt - Post a picture of a natural feature e.g.. Loch Ness, pupils have to find out **where** the picture was taken

History

Guess Who - Teacher has a historical figure in mind, pupils ask questions to get YES / NO answers, first to guess wins

History

Timeline - Pupils post about particular events, carefully replying to each other, so that it displays in **chronological** order

Languages

Alphabet game - Post the name of a food beginning with **A**. The first person to reply posts beginning with **B** etc

Languages

Teacher posts an audio clip for students to
translate. Q & A type forum

Languages

Translate each post as a reply

71

Languages

Upload a picture and
describe it in French

72

Maths

Pupils research a mathematician, **posting a bio** without mentioning their name. Other pupils **guess** who it is

Maths

Q & A forum with calculations
set in the introduction

74

Music

Ask pupils to record their songs and
upload them for peer feedback

Music

Students **post links** to YouTube music videos that convey a particular feeling

PE

Teacher posts a video of a complex movement, then pupils upload a series of stills of them carrying out the activity

Science

Spot the mistake - Post a video of the teacher doing an experiment unsafely - the pupils have to comment

Science

Pass the buck - First person describes a scientific process. Next person replies with a process that is **linked** and so on

Science

Post pictures to show weathering
near you

80

Science

Take pictures of 3 or 4 living things and
arrange in a food chain

Science

Upload and critique

experiment write-ups

82

Science

Word Filter - Post some **scientific text** on a Q & A forum, pupils **pick out** keywords and define them

Science

Write a **post about** the biggest achievement of a famous Scientist

Textiles

Which designer had the biggest impact on 21C fashion. **Reply with pictures only**

Using custom

Scales for

Ratings

How to let **pupils** Rate Forums

[http://docs.moodle.org/22/en/
Forum_permissions#Locally_as
signed_roles](http://docs.moodle.org/22/en/Forum_permissions#Locally_as_signed_roles)

**How to set up custom scales - Play
with the **Aggregate type settings**, and
check any calculations**

http://docs.moodle.org/22/en/Scales#Creating_a_new_scale

A bit more....

A scale to extend discussions.

Please simplify, give me more, try to
add a few examples etc

Bloom's

A scale pupils can use to **rate** the level of thinking in a post using **Bloom's taxonomy**

De Bono

A scale using the colours of

De Bono's **thinking** hats

Exemplar

Teacher posts exemplar work of different levels and pupils rate them, to show what grade it deserves

Feedback

Rate today's lesson. **Teacher asks
for feedback!** / 5

Feel good factor

'Great post', 'Well done' etc. A nice comment that can be awarded to any post

Names of characters

Pupils post 'quotes' others rate
picking which character they
belong to

92

Outstanding

A simple scale. Outstanding, Satisfactory,
Unsatisfactory

Revision questions

Q & A - set a question in the intro and post the marking criteria. Pupils grade each other after they post

Rewards

A scale based on the rewards system **used in**
your institution –

Merits, Credits etc

Gardner's

Reply and rate posts using **Gardner's**
Intelligences. Intrapersonal, Linguistic,
Logical -Mathematical etc

Smilies

:-) :-D ;-) :-/ V-. :-P ^-)

(Moodle will not auto convert these as they are not in an html box)

Stars

★, ★★, ★★★, ★★★★, ★★★★★,

Google for text symbols



Traffic light

Rate using **Red**, **Amber**, **Green**

whether you understand the post

99

Vote

Collect **votes** and comments on a particular topic, design or idea

100

And lastly, not to forget

**A single simple discussion
about something!**

101

Anonymous posting plugin by Juan Leyva -

try it!

http://docs.moodle.org/22/en/Anonymous_posting_plugin

Hopefully that gives
you something to
think about

Thanks!



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