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| Description:  Online discussions are a great tool to extend classroom conversations and learning by getting students to engage with class material online. Managing online discussions can be a daunting task. This workshop will provide best practice ideas and strategies to understand how to facilitate online discussions.  Duration:  1 hour    Format of workshop  F2F and Online | Objectives:   * Formulate effective facilitation techniques in online discussions * Model effective tone to establish ground rules * Improve student interaction by allowing students to do the talking * Propose probing questions to start and maintain discussion * Produce a productive online learning environment |

**Agenda**

1. **Welcome**
   1. Attendance Sign-in
   2. Instructor Introduction
2. **Purpose**- The purpose of this workshop is the help instructors develop a clear understanding about online discussion as one of the most commonly used techniques in online teaching. Online discussions provide the ability for asynchronous and synchronous discussion to occur over a period of time. The ability to learn asynchronously is one of the primary benefits of online learning. Students are able to reflect upon their ideas before sharing them with the class, leading to more reflective responses and in-depth learning. This workshop has also been designed to provide some practical suggestions to assist you in making the most of the versatile Blackboard tools. A number of topics will be addressed, including: facilitation tips, content area suggestions, time management strategies and much more.
3. Four steps to successful online discussions
4. Be clear about your goals
5. Model proper online interaction
6. Ways to manage online discussion
7. Best practices with online discussions
8. Tools to Use
9. Contact [EdTech@wilmu.edu](mailto:EdTech@wilmu.edu) for support