

**La Trobe University**

**Learning Management System  
LMS/WebCT  
Guide for Students**

**DISCUSSIONS**

Prepared by:

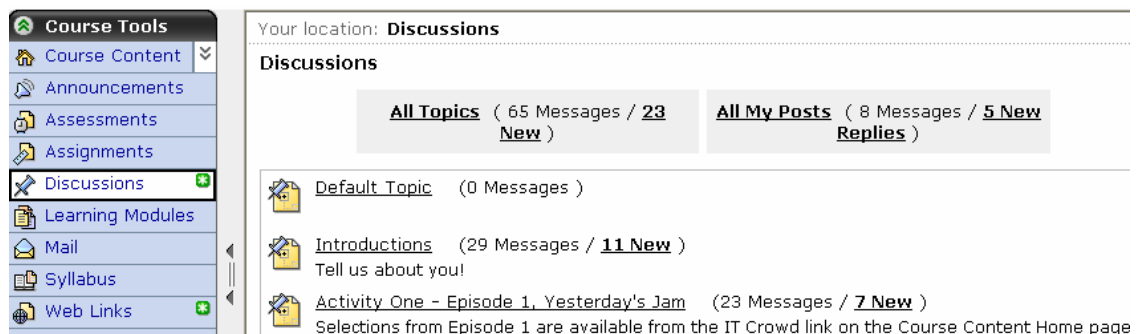
LMS Support Team

Online Teaching Support Team

Website: <http://webct/latrobe.edu.au>

## Discussions

With the Discussions tool you can discuss unit topics with your Lecturers, Tutors and other Students in your unit. If the Discussions tool is being used in your unit, a link to it appears under Course Tools. If there are new discussions, a small green icon will appear next to the link.



There are three types of discussion topic:

- **Threaded.** A traditional online discussion where you can post and reply to messages. Replies that are associated with the same post are grouped together, creating message threads that can be expanded and collapsed.
- **Class blog.** A more collaborative space where you post a chronological series of entries on a particular topic. You can then add comments to any blog entry.
- **Journal.** A place for your own writing, the journals can be kept private between you and your Lecturer or shared with the class.




Depending on settings, within the topics created for your unit you can read, post and reply to discussion messages. You can also submit peer review. You may be graded based on your participation in a topic.

When you enter a topic, the topic details are listed:

- **Topic Type.** Threaded, Blog, or Journal
- **Graded.** Yes or No
- **Peer Review.** Yes or No
- **Posting Restrictions.** Allow post and reply, Allow reply only, or Allow post only
- **Access.** Public or Private

**Note:** Only journal topics can be private. If private, only the Section Instructor can view your journal entries.

- **User Identification.** User Name or Anonymous

 Description (click to collapse)

Topic Type: Journal
Graded: No
Peer Review: No
Posting Restrictions: Allow post and reply
Access: Private
User Identification: User Name

With the **Discussions** tool, you can:

- read messages posted by your Lecturers, Tutors and other Students.
- post messages to threaded or class blog topics, or add entries to your journal.
- receive replies or peer review from other Students.
- if working collaboratively on a project, discuss ideas with other members in your group.
- create a printable view of messages that you can print or download.
- receive a grade based on your participation in a discussion topic.