

**Ernest Nkansah-Dwamena, Ph.D.**

**Instructions for Completing the Discussion Prompts for Students:**

Provide an initial response (300-350 word count) to the prompt by Wednesday at noon, ET. In addition to responding to the prompt, you should engage in the board by replying to the posts of two of your classmates in ways that advance the conversation by Friday at noon, ET. In your post, you might, for instance:

- Post an opinion based on reading/research you do on the topic.
- Respond thoughtfully to a topic from your own experience.
- Provide links and resources related to the topic that would be of interest to other participants.
- Pose a thought-provoking question related to the topic.
- Collect multiple perspectives on a topic or provide an alternative view to the one currently dominating the discussion.
- Thoughtfully rebut another participant’s comments.
- Synthesize the current class discussion by summing up arguments or discussion points.
- Agree or disagree respectfully and provide support.
- Cite all your sources using the Chicago style of citation.

**Self-Assessment Assignment for Grading your Participation**

- Keep track of all of your postings to our discussion forums in a separate word document.
- Use the discussion topic as the header for this document. Include the week or module in which the discussion took place.
- Underneath copy and paste what you have posted, i.e., your initial or original response and your replies to other people’s postings.
- Underneath your postings using the heading "Summary," (1) provide a summary of the class discussion and (2) your contribution in terms of the contribution criteria below.
- Submit your word document as full name-discussion board evaluation.

**Contribution Criteria**

These criteria explain my expectations of you concerning your participation in the discussion forum. Consider both the quantity and quality of your contributions. The quality of your input is more important than the length of each posting. Ask yourself whether you did your best to engage the topic and your peers in a productive dialogue and then explain to me how you did this. If you have any questions about this assignment, let me know.

<b>Criteria: Quality (teaching and cognitive presence)</b> <i>In terms of quality, did you:</i>	<b>Criteria: Quantity (social presence)</b> <i>In terms of quantity, did you:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Challenge an idea or offer new information and alternatives not yet learned or mentioned</li><li>- Help address issues that your peers have raised or come up with a creative solution?</li><li>- Ask the right questions to stimulate additional thought about the issue under discussion?</li><li>- Give examples from your personal experience?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Show respect, encourage, and assist others in developing or clarifying their ideas?</li><li>- Dominate the discussion or remain too silent?</li><li>- Explain yourself well?</li><li>- Give good examples?</li><li>- Respond to others as well as making your comments?</li></ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>Contribute substantial evidence to support your opinion by injecting knowledge from diverse sources, e.g., textbook, articles, internet, etc.</i></li><li>- <i>Acknowledge and affirm someone else's ideas or contribution to help "create a level of comfort."</i></li><li>- <i>Bring a derailing dialogue back on track?</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>Post an initial response and reply to at least two people on time?</i></li><li>- <i>Identify areas of agreement or disagreement and seek to reach consensus or understanding?</i></li></ul>
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