

## Participating in a Discussion

Blackboard's discussion board is an important communication tool for online learning. It creates the dynamic interaction that is so important in online classes.

In the Discussion Board, users answer thoughtful questions posed by their instructor and other students. Normally points are given and a format structure is included in student participation.

Accessing the Discussion Board

To get to a discussion forum, follow the steps below.

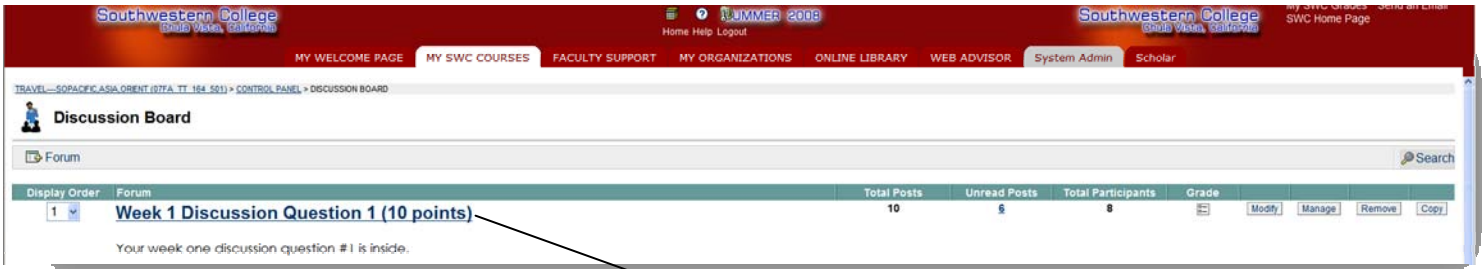
**Step 1:** Select the [Discussion Board link](#) from the control panel and under the [COURSE TOOLS](#) module:



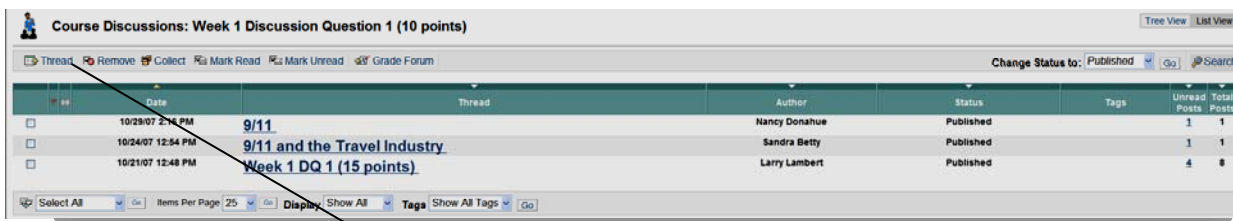
**Step 2:** Click the name of the discussion Board in which you want to view the forums.



This will take you into the forum area where you can choose the forum you want to view messages in. The discussion boards will show group boards here.



Click on the **discussion board forum** to view message threads



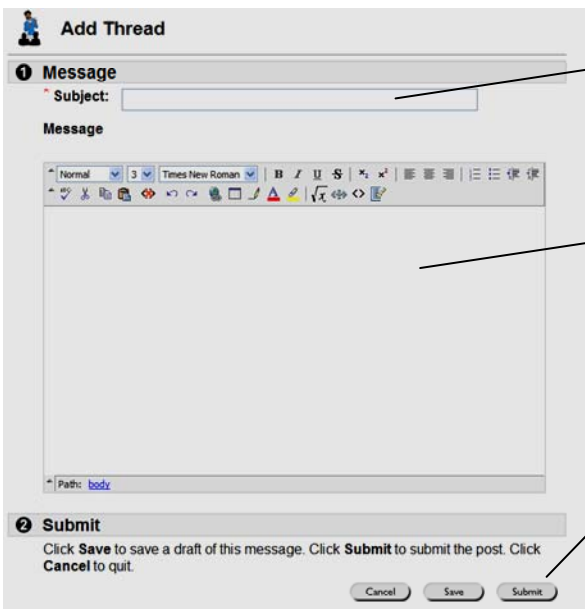
Start new thread button

## Starting a New Thread

Starting a New Thread is the on-line version of beginning a new train of thought in a discussion.

To start a new thread, follow the four steps below.

**Step 1:** Click the **Start New Thread** button.  Thread



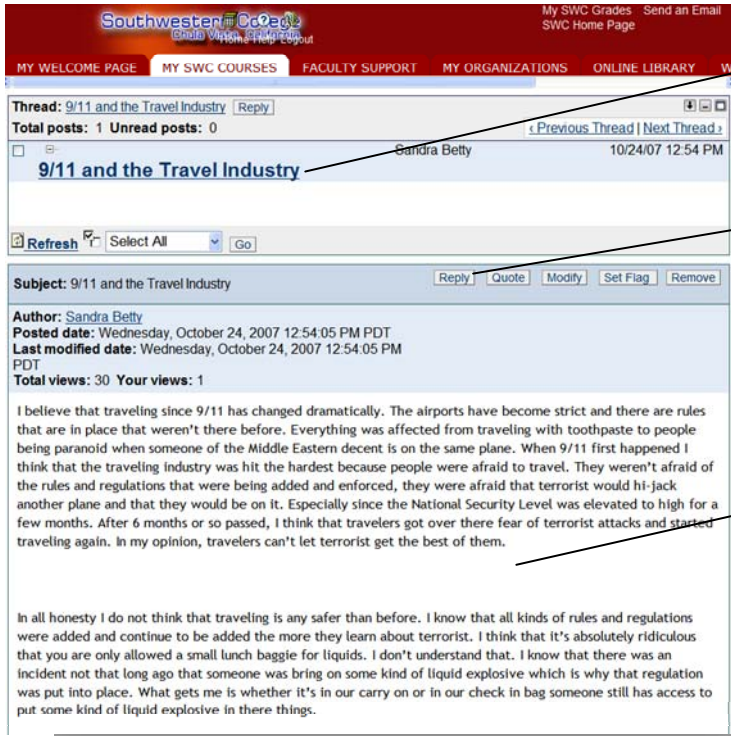
Type the subject of the new thread

Type the message (thought) of the new thread

Click **Save** to store a draft of the post or click **Submit** to create the thread

# Reading/Replying to a Message

To read or reply to a message, follow the steps below.



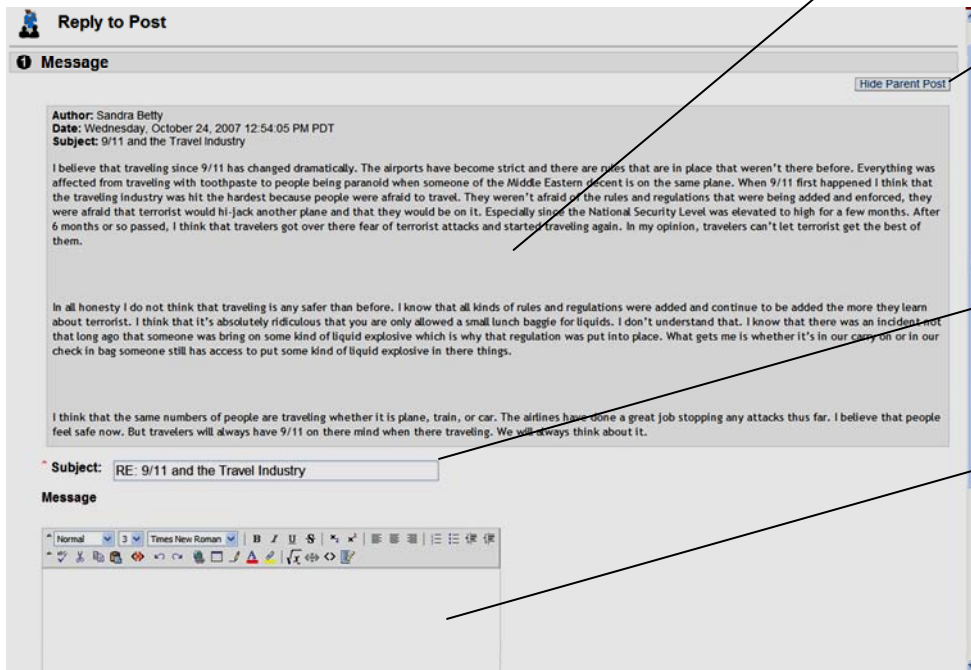
**Step 1:** In the Discussion Board view, click the name of the thread you want to respond to.

**Step 2:** Click any of the Reply buttons to post a reply.

You are replying to this message post

**Step 4:** Enter the appropriate information in the text fields.

**Note:** The message to which you are responding is displayed above the text fields for the reply.



You can hide the parent post to which you are applying to if it is too long, you want more typing space or you can remember it.

This is the subject line for your reply

Type your reply here in the message box and click the **SUBMIT** button.