

D2L's Brightspace: Getting Started with Discussions

Quick Summary

This is part of a four-part series on Brightspace Discussions. This document will explain how to get started with Discussions, focusing on explaining Brightspace's terminology and organization structure around Discussions and how they migrate from Blackboard, depending on the migration method used.

Additional Resources on Discussions:

[Creating Discussions](#) | [Editing Discussions](#) | [Participating In and Grading Discussions](#)

Video

If you prefer to watch a video, select the link: [Brightspace Discussions Part 1: Introduction](#)

Terminology & Structure

Brightspace uses unique terminology for discussion, organizing them into the following structures:

Forum

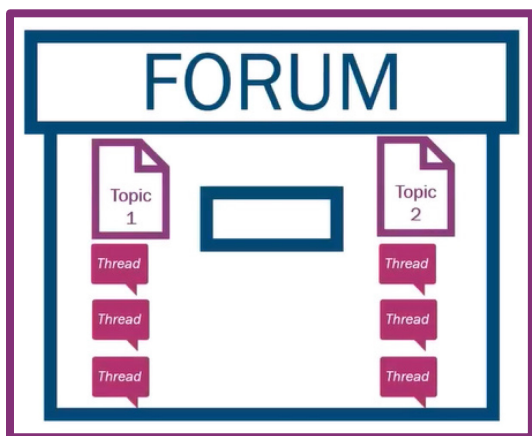
A "Forum" is a container to organize your Discussions. This is an extra layer of organization that does not exist in Blackboard. Only instructors can create Forums.

Topic

A "Topic" is a prompt to which your students will reply. Topics live inside of Forums to help keep them organized. The Topic is where you will create a prompt and select settings like points, availability dates, and various options for how you want students to participate. Only instructors can create Topics.

Thread

"Threads" are where the conversation happens. Students and/or instructors create Threads to respond to topics. Students and/or instructors can also reply to each other's Threads.

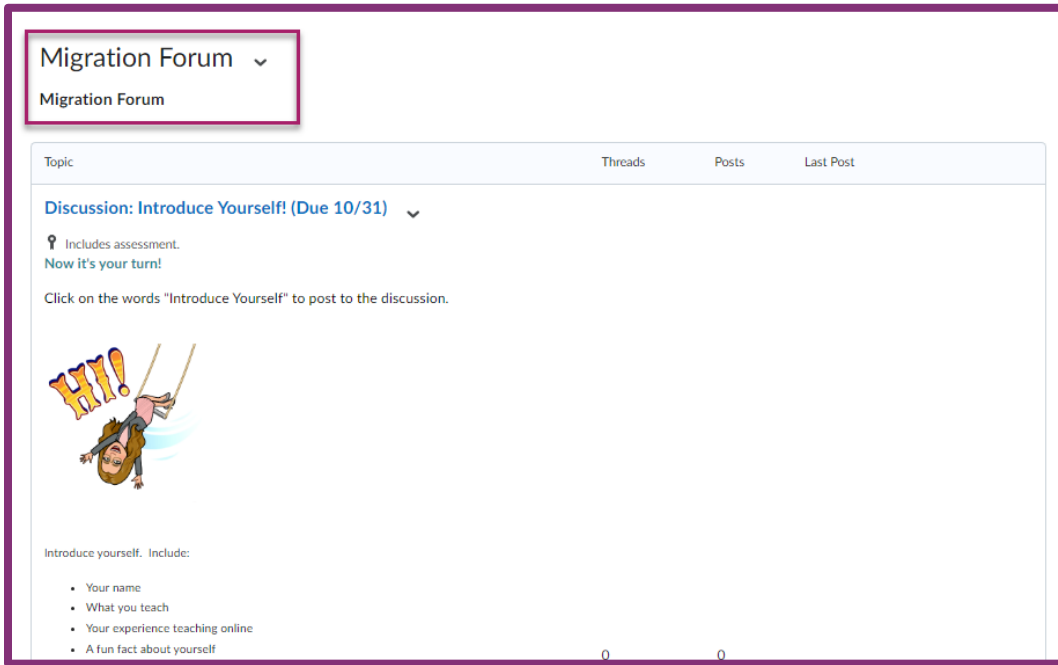


What Happens When Discussions Migrate from Blackboard?

Faculty have three options to migrate their content from Blackboard to Brightspace. Faculty building from scratch will simply create their Discussions in Brightspace and can organize them into any desired Forum structure. Migrating with K-16 Solutions or using the Export/Import method will result in the following Forum structures:

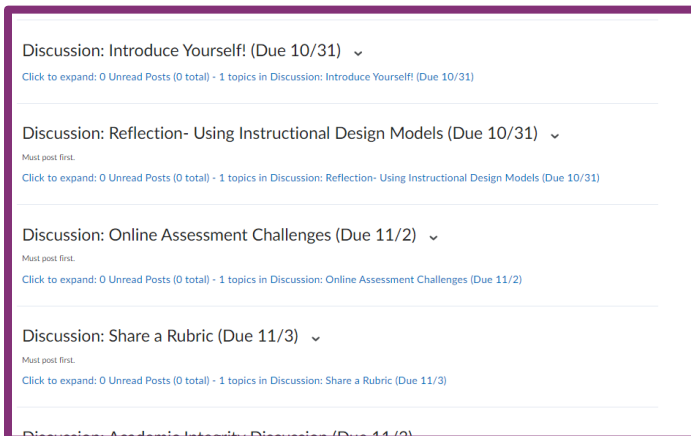
K-16 Solutions

K-16 Solutions will create a singular forum called “Migration Forum” to house all of your Discussion Topics. It is recommended to change the title and description of the Forum. You may create new Forums to reorganize your Discussion Topics if you choose.



Export/Import

The Export/Import process will create a Discussion Forum for *each* discussion that you migrated from Blackboard; each of these Forums houses a singular Discussion Topic using the naming convention, “Discussion: [Title from Blackboard].” You may choose to leave this structure, however if you have a significant number of Discussions in your course, it might be easier for your students if you group them together into a Forum structure that aligns with the layout of your Content Modules.

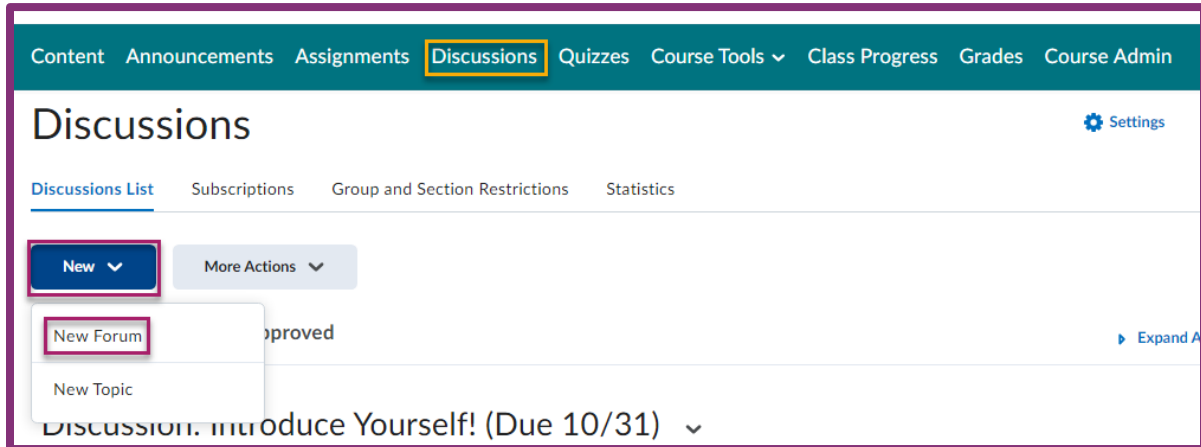


Reorganizing Discussions Post-Migration

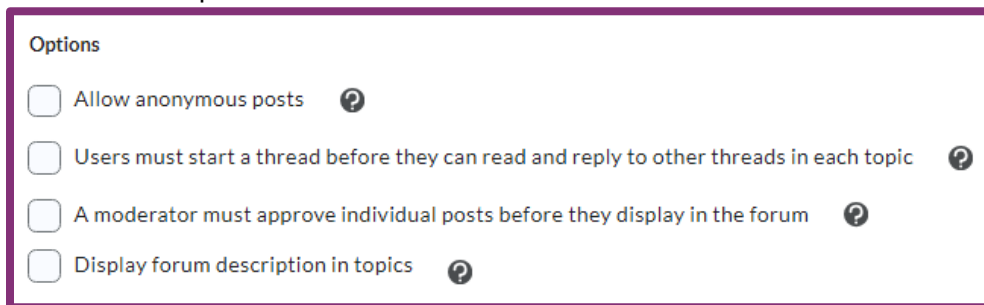
If you decide to reorganize your discussions, this is a quick and easy process.

Step 1: Create Forums

- Under the Discussions link in the Teal Navigation Bar, select “New” and then “New Forum.”



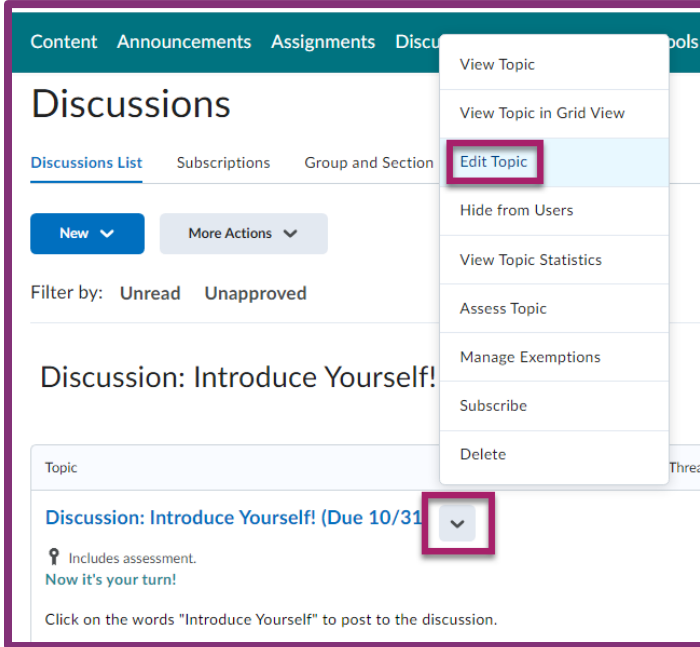
- Give it a name, an optional description, and decide if you want to apply any of the optional settings to all of the Topics within the Forum. Then select “Save and Close.”



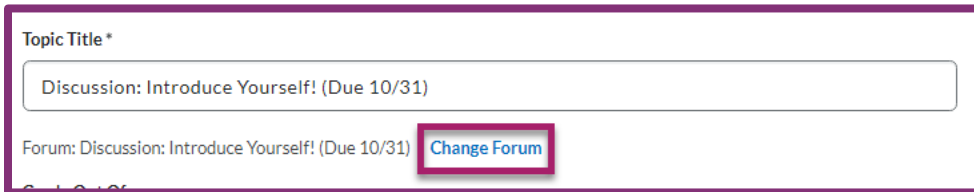
- Continue this process until you have created all of the forums.

Step 2: Move Topics

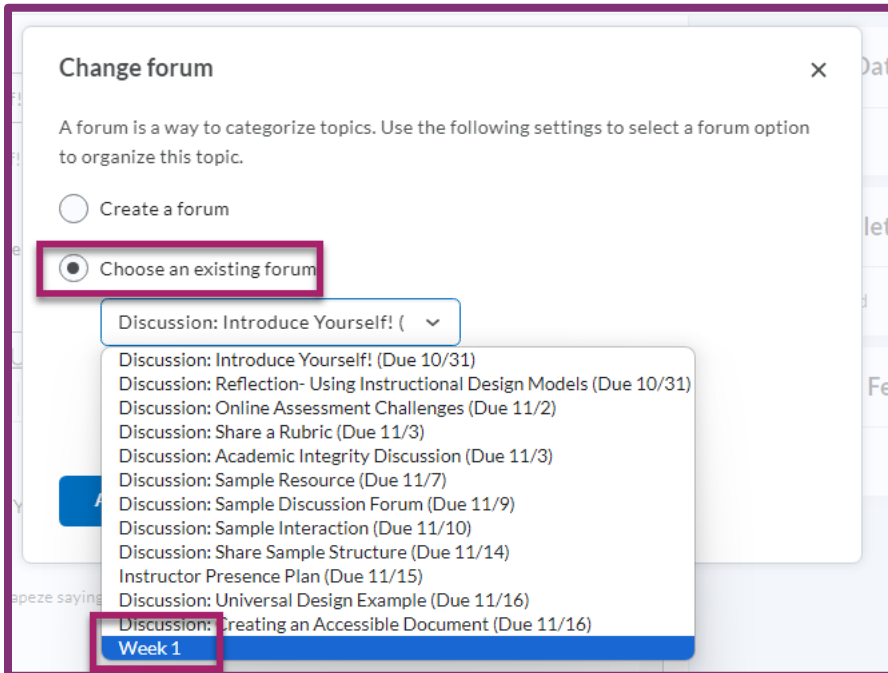
- Select the dropdown arrow next to the Topic title and select “Edit Topic.”



- Select “Change Forum.”



- Select “Choose an existing forum” and then select the appropriate Forum from the dropdown menu.

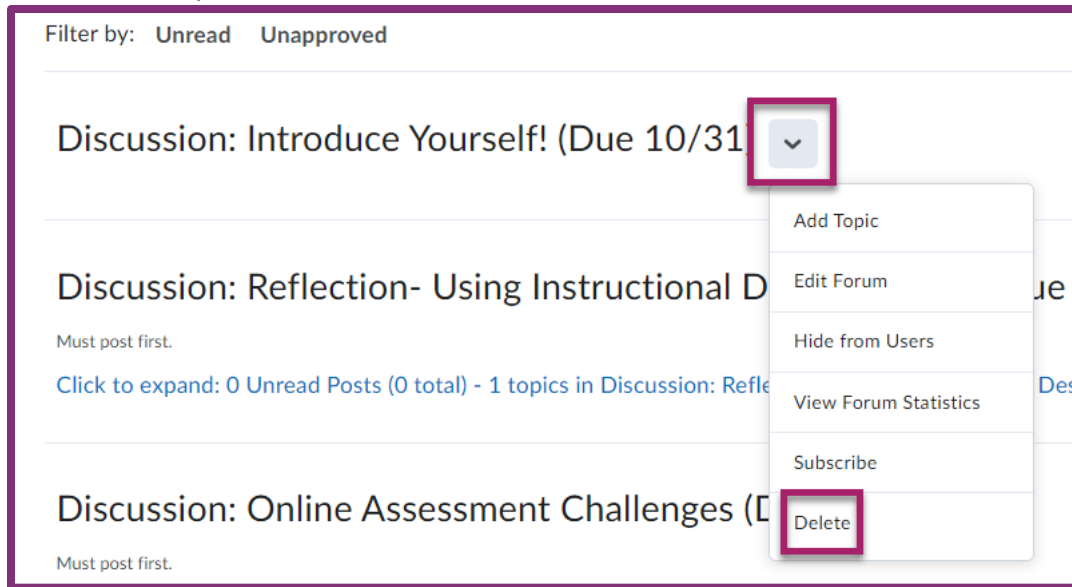


- Select “Apply Changes,” and then select “Save and Close.”

Step 3: Delete Empty Forum

After you have moved all Topics out of a Forum, make sure to delete it so it is not cluttering your course.

- Select the dropdown arrow next to the Forum title and select “Delete.”



Need Help?

- For help migrating or creating your discussions, please contact the [Help Desk](#).
- For help creating engaging discussion prompts, organizing discussions into your course design, or selecting appropriate settings for your discussions, please make an appointment with the Instructional Design Team.
 - [Book a Virtual Appointment](#)
 - [Email Us](#) to meet in-person