



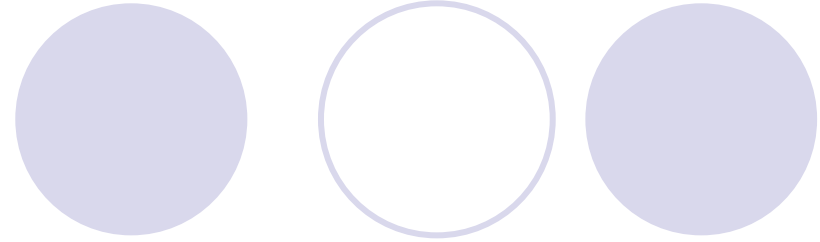
Using Moodle's communications tools

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Session outline

- Discussion fora
- Chats
- Instant messaging



Discussion fora



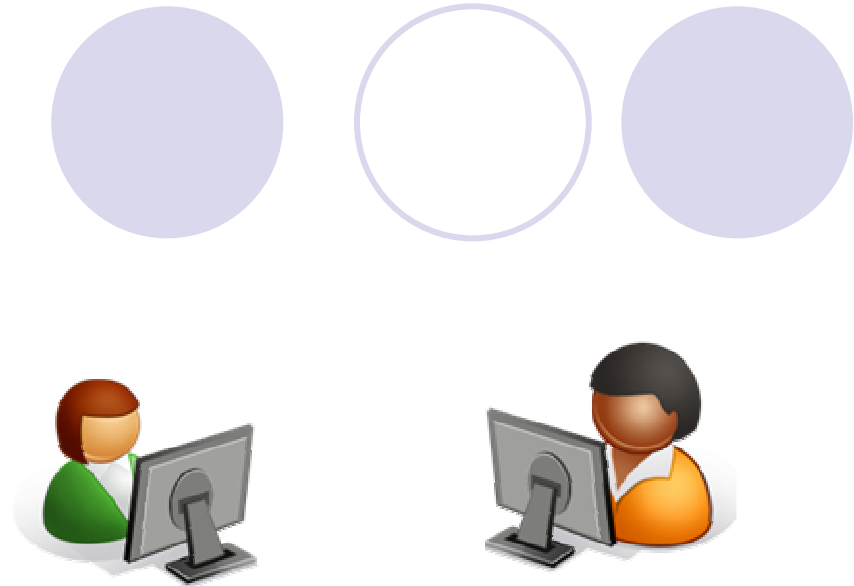



Previous experiences

- How have you used discussions previously?
- How did students react?
- What changes might you make if you use discussions again?

Key features

- Text-based communication
- Asynchronous communication: discussion occurs over an extended period of time



Discussion	Started by	Group	Replies
Getting started with the group project	 Training Student1	Group 1	1





Advantages

- Flexible participation in discussions
- Time to reflect
- Messages visible, stored and archived
- Development of written communications skills



Limitations

- Inappropriate for some types of communication
- Absence of visual/paralinguistic cues
- Time gaps between posts
- Permanency of the dialog, structure imposed
- Lack of continuity
- Reliance on written communication skills
- Getting students to engage

Possible applications



Role
play

Questions and
answers

Group work

General class
administration and
communication

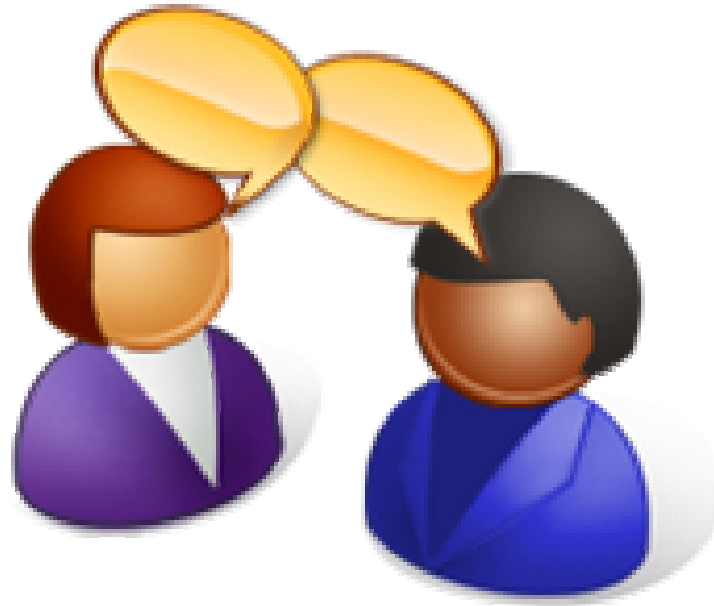
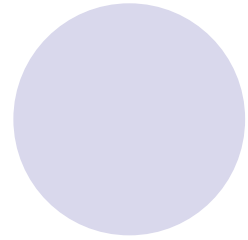
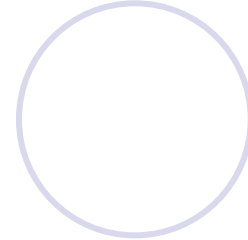
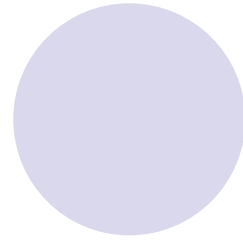
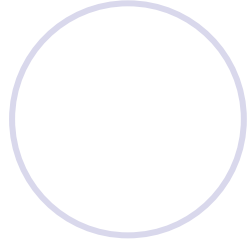
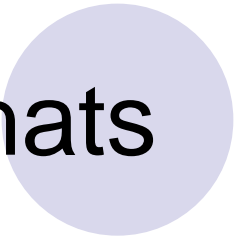
Online debate



Demo/activity

- Setting up a new forum
- Posting and replying to messages
- News forum

Chats





Previous experience

- How have you used discussions previously?
- How did students react?
- What changes might you make if you use discussions again?

Key features

- Text based communication
- Synchronous communication: dialog happens in real time



Advantages of chat



- Accessible from any location
- No lag time in discussions
- Chats can be archived

Chat limitations



- Time dependant
- Limited time for reflection
- Requires good, fast, typing skills
- Needs careful management (see handout for tips)
- Better tools available

Possible applications

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Guest speakers

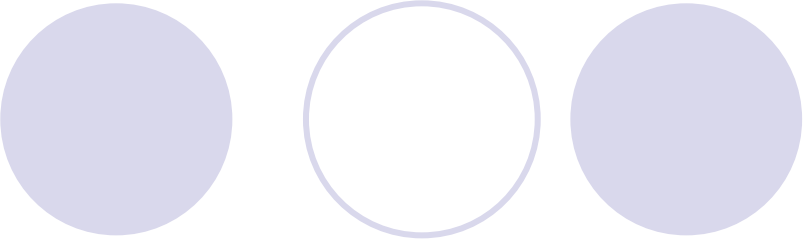
Brainstorming
sessions

Q & A sessions

Group projects



Demo/activity

- Setting up a new chat
 - Participating in a chat
- 

Instant messaging



- Unlike chat, is site wide
- Best for informal communications, rather than structures activities