**Grading Rubric for Physics Discussion Board (DB)**

1. You are required to create and post one substantive original post each week in response to that week’s forum, **no later than 11:59PM every Wednesday night** throughout the quarter.
* “Substantive” is defined as “full of meaning and content.” Your thread must show original thought and should be specifically linked to that week’s topic and the specific questions/tasks I’ve posted. If I refer to a specific article or part of the textbook, do not simply paraphrase the reading! What I want to read is what you think about the particular subject at hand!
* The rubric below will give you more specifics about what I’ll be looking for in both your threads and your responses to others. It’s challenging to couch this in terms of number of words or sentences! I'm actually looking more for the number and quality of thoughts you express.
* If you absolutely cannot think of this in any way other than length, then consider the minimum length as being a nice long paragraph of at least 5 or 6 meaningful sentences.

2. You are required to respond to at least two other people each week. Responses must be posted **no later than 11:59 PM each Friday night**.

* In your replies to others, I don’t want to simply see, “Good post,” or “I agree/disagree with you.” I want to know WHY you thought it was a good post, WHY you agree or disagree, and how your experience relates to the subject of the original post.
* Responses to others' posts will vary in content and in length, but it will still be helpful gradewise for your comments to demonstrate thoughtful analysis of the posts to which you are responding.
* Please note that I want you to respond to 2 other peoples' postings. That doesn't just mean 2 posts; it's 2 people. So if you respond to Jane Doe three times, that still only counts as 1 response. I suggest you log on to DB a few times a week so you can follow the flow of the various threads. I expect you to keep up with the discussion (i.e., don’t ask questions that have already been answered). Also, the earlier in the week you post your own original entry, the more peer responses you'll receive.

**Grading:** The Discussion Board is the online equivalent of class participation and the best way to feel engaged in an online class. DB forum is worth 10 points. Notice that to get a 10, you need to go above and beyond the minimum posting requirements. If your original post is late, you may still receive **up to 8 points** if your response posts are on time and of very high quality.

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| **Criteria** | **~9-10 ptsOutstanding** | **~7-8 ptsProficient** | **~5-6 ptsBasic** | **~0-4ptsSub-par** |
| **Connections to Forum Topic (4 points)** | * Clear connections to current as well as previous topic(s)
* Addresses all aspects of forum questions/tasks
 | * Clear connections to current topic
* Addresses most aspects of forum questions/tasks
 | * Limited connection to topic
* Somewhat vague, generic
* Addresses some forum items/tasks
 | * Few (if any) connections made to current topic
* Doesn’t really address forum questions
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| **Uniqueness, Creativity (4 points)** | * New ideas and/or connections, made with depth & detail
* Significant analysis
* Expresses creativity and individuality
* Well-written
 | * Some new ideas/ connections made, above-average level of depth/detail
* Some analysis has taken place
* Generally well-written
 | * Few, if any new ideas or connections apparent
* Little analysis
* Short, skimpy, vague
 | * Doesn’t really contribute anything new to the discussion
* No analysis or displayed
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| **Timeliness/ Content/** **Overall Quality (2 points)** | * Posts original thread early in week, joins different discussions
* Submissions include excellent original thread+ substantive responses to two or more classmates
 | * All required postings entered on time and not one right after the other. That means don’t make your original post at 8:00 pm and your follow up posts at 8:05 and 8:10 pm the same day.
* Contains substantive original thread plus responses to 2 classmates
 | * Meets minimum requirements (1 original thread, 2 responses)
* Done one right after the other (obvious intent to “get it out of the way”)
 | * If student submits ONLY an original thread without replies to others, s/he may **earn up to 6 points** if the thread is exceptional.
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