Moodle - Forum Grading Overview

Grading Moodle Discussion Forums

Summary: Discussion forums are the main conversational tool built into Moodle for asynchronous classroom discussion. The following are some of the common ways that you can evaluate your student's work in Moodle Forums.

Option 1: Use Ratings: Ratings allows the instructor to provide an integer score for each post.   To activate ratings in the forum settings you need to set the following two components in the forum settings:

Aggregate type:

1. Average of ratings - The mean of all ratings
2. Count of ratings - The number of rated items becomes the final grade. The total cannot exceed the maximum grade for the activity.
3. Maximum - The highest rating becomes the final grade
4. Minimum - The smallest rating becomes the final grade
5. Sum - All ratings are added together. The total cannot exceed the maximum grade for the activity.

Scale:

    Setting any scale adds the discussion to the gradebook. We recommend using Point. Then for grading you enter the discussion and you will find a ratings box for each post by each student. You simply select an integer value and that appears in the gradebook.

▼ Ratings

Roles with permission to rate ⑦

Capability check not available until activity is saved

Aggregate type ⑦

[Average of ratings ⬍]

Scale ⑦

Type [Point ⬍]

[10 ⬍] [competence scale ⬍]

Scale [10 ⬍]

Maximum grade [100]

Restrict ratings to items with dates in this range: ☐

From

[6 ⬍] [July ⬍] [2017 ⬍] [12 ⬍] [20 ⬍] 🗓

Average of ratings: 13.5 (2) [17 ⬍]

Hi from Ben
by Benjamin Moodle - Tuesday, 22 January 2013, 1:15 PM

I am Ben Moodle. I am a mythical student that is so excited to be taking this course. Since I only exist in the virtual world I see a conversation about how technology shapes our lives as really important. Too often when we think of technology, like Edward Tenner says, we only think of the "revenge effects" but in reality most of the time technology does make our lives easier. Of course there is the danger that we are becoming our technology --- oh wait that has already happened to me.

Average of ratings: 13.5 (2) [17 ⬍]   Permalink | Mark unread | Edit | Delete | Reply | Export to portfolio

[2017 ⬍] [12 ⬍] [20 ⬍] 🗓

Option 2: Manually add an item to the gradebook.

This option allows you to enter grades directly into the gradebook (in one window or tab) while you read discussion posts (in another window or

tab). The advantage is that you can use decimal grades (8.5) as opposed to integer grades (8 or 9). The disadvantage is that you must work in two windows.

Step 1: Add the discussion to your Grade book

Add grade item

- Click on the Gradebook setup link in your Course Administration Block or on Grades in the Navigation drawer (Boost).
- Scroll to the bottom of the Gradebook setup page and click on the Add a grade item, add your Forum Name to the "Item name" field and the point value for the forum into the "Maximum grade" field.

Step 2: Open your grader report window

- Go to the Grader Report via the Grades link in the Navigation block/drawer.

Step 3: Open your forum posts: Open a new window or tab in your browser with the discussion post that requires grading. One easy way to do this is to right-click (Mac – control-click) on your course ID in the breadcrumbs at the top left of your page (in the example below MOO301) and select Open page in new tab or window.

Home ▶ My courses ▶ MOO301 ▶ Grade administration ▶ Grader report

Step 4: Grade the forum and enter grades
Once you have your new window open, resize the two windows so that they are side by side, or leave the windows full size if you open the two windows in tabs and just click back and forth between the two tabs of the discussion forum and the gradebook as you read and enter grades in the grade item created in Step 1 above. Simply click in a grade cell and enter a grade value and a comment.
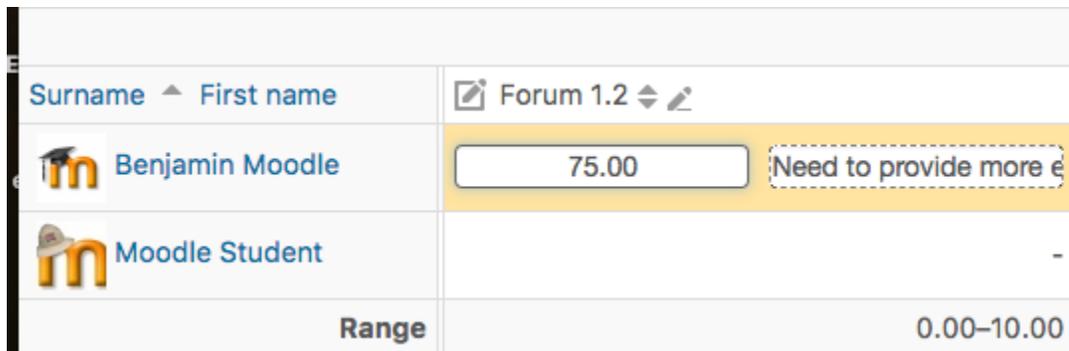
Surname ▲ First name	Forum 1.2 ⇕ ✎	
Benjamin Moodle	75.00	Need to provide more e
Moodle Student		-
Range	0.00–10.00	

Helpful Hint: Accessing all of one students posts: THREE OPTIONS

OPTION 1: Manual item in the Grader Report:
If you wish to view all of one student's posts, say for grading using one of the above methods other than ratings, you can do that via the following steps:

1. Open either the Grades > Grader Report or People/Participants
2. Right-click on each participant's name and open each persons profile in a new tab or window (this way you can easily close the tab or window and immediately move on to the next student without waiting to reload the participant list). You can also open several participants at once in their own tab.

Benja... | Open Link in New Window
         | Open Link in New Tab
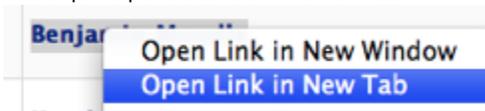
3. On the profile page for each participant, click the "Forum Posts" link in the "Miscellaneous" area (shows all posts including replies) or Discussions (shows all "threads" initiated by the student, excluding replies).

Miscellaneous

Full profile

View all blog entries

Notes

Forum posts

Forum discussions

Posts made by Benjamin Moodle

MOO301 -> standard forum -> post by student
by Benjamin Moodle – Monday, 27 February 2012, 04:28 PM

discuss.....

OPTION 2: Accessing all of one student's posts using the Search Forums Block.

1. On your course home page turn editing on and in the Add a block, block on the lower right add the Search Forums Block.

2. In the Search Forums Block click on Advanced Search.

Search forums

Go

Advanced search

3. Select the Forum you wish to search and then enter the student's name in the author slot.

Choose which forums to search   Sample forum

These words should be in the subject

This name should match the author   Ben

Search forums

>>>>

Sample forum -> Google Docs URL
by Benjamin Moodle – Monday, 23 December 2013, 11:08 AM

My Google Doc

4. Once done with one student just click the browser back button to move to the next student by typing the next student's name. Enter grades as you do this in your offline feedback assignment in another window or tab.

OPTION 3: Use a rubric in an Offline assignment. If you wish to use the new rubric feature in Moodle 2 to grade a discussion you will need to add in addition to your forum an "offline assignment". I usually keep these hidden until grading is completed, but also place the rubric in the syllabus so that the learners know the expectations and can view the rubric prior to completing the forum. Below is a sample discussion rubric. This option requires that you have a window or tab open with the discussion and a window or tab open with the "offline assignment" grading window.

Sample discussion rubric

Consistent Participation	No posts during the Module 0 points		Posts on 1 day 2 points	Posts on 2 days 3 points	Posts on at least 3 days, including two weekdays 4 points
Original & Informed Contributions to the Learning Community	No contribution 0points	Originated or expanded on one conversation with low information value and little depth 1 points		Originated or expanded on one conversation with some information value, depth, & support 2 points	Originated or significantly expanded one or more significant, informed, and supported original contribution 3 points
Informed building on other's conversations (replies)	No replies posted 0points	1 (or more) generic reply with little contribution to discussion content 1 points		1 or more replies at least one of which extends the discussion 2 points	2 or more replies which extend discussion and add to community learning 3 points