

Building an online learning community in Moodle

What is an online learning community?

An online learning community is a platform where groups of participants come together to create an interactive learning environment that allows diverse reactions and feedback. There learners of varied abilities and backgrounds find ways to explore, to think, to innovate, to develop skills, and to understand concepts, things they wouldn't be able to achieve on their own. These learning experiences could be highly engaging and motivation could be greatly enhanced.

On such a relaxed learning platform, students can:

- discuss assignments
- ask questions
- share personal experiences
- reflect and think critically about someone's opinion
- get exposed to new ideas; and
- share perspectives

In Moodle, we can use the activity called "Forum" to build an online learning community. [Click here to get to know how to create "Forum" in Moodle.](#)

Tips on building an online learning community

- 1. Teacher appears first**
build a sense of enthusiasm and commitment
- 2. Make announcement**
reminding students of due dates and their progress
- 3. Ice-breaking**
introduce the module background and intended learning outcomes
- 4. Invite questions**
prompt students to ask questions
- 5. Facilitate discussion**
address students by their names and invite them to answer questions; summarise the discussion points and actively reply to their posts.
- 6. Promote peer learning**
design pair work and invite students to give feedback to their peers

Ground rules of an online learning community

- 1. Participate actively**
must contribute questions to the Forum and provide insightful comments to a topic
- 2. Use proper language**
demonstrate the use of appropriate language when giving questions and answers
- 3. Respect diversity**

provide best content and make the Forum a useful and helpful learning space

4. Give justification of an opinion

reply to questions with justifications and brief comment

5. No flaming

allow critical but constructive comments

References

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