



Creating Group Topics in the Discussions Tool – D2L Tutorial

This tutorial is designed for faculty who have previous experience using the Discussions tool, as well as how to set up Groups in D2L. For further information, please contact elarning@camosun.ca for assistance.

Scenario

This tutorial will cover the steps involved when you wish to create a Discussion Topic where each thread is restricted to a Group of students in your D2L course site.

Steps

1. Go to your course homepage.
2. First, create your groups in the **Groups** tool (see the *Creating Groups* tutorial for more information). Then, go to the **Discussions** tool in your course.
3. Create a Forum for your Topic (see the tutorial on *Creating Forums and Topics*). Click **New** and select **New Topic**.

The screenshot shows the D2L Discussions tool interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'Discussions List', 'Subscriptions', 'Group and Section Restrictions', and 'Statistics'. A 'New' button is highlighted with a red box and a red arrow pointing to the 'New Topic' option in the dropdown menu. Below the 'New' button, there are options for 'New Forum' and 'New Topic'. The 'New Topic' option is also highlighted with a red box. The interface shows a list of discussion topics, including 'All about me...' with 3 threads and 11 posts. The last post is by 'Training09 Teacher' on May 15, 2014 at 11:22 AM.

Topic	Threads	Posts	Last Post
All about me... ▾ This Topic is called "All about me". Post a brief paragraph (1-2 screens max) introducing yourself to the class. For instance, you can tell the class about your	3	11 (4)	Training09 Teacher May 15, 2014 11:22 AM



4. Select a Forum from the Forum drop-down where your Topic will reside. Then, under Topic Type, select **Group or section topic, everyone can access this topic but students only see threads from their own group or section**. Select the **Group Category** you wish to be attached to this Topic (remember, you have to set up Groups first!). Add a Title and customize your Topic as appropriate. Click **Save and Close**.

New Topic

Properties Restrictions Assessment Objectives

New Topic Details

Forum *
Forum for a Group Topic (grouped threads) [New Forum] ?

Topic Type
 Open topic, everyone can access this topic and its contents
 Group or section topic, everyone can access this topic but students only see threads from their own group or section

Group or Section Category
Event Timeline Hazard Selection
Event Timeline Hazard Selection
Group Topic Sign-up
Group Work
Self enrolment for articles

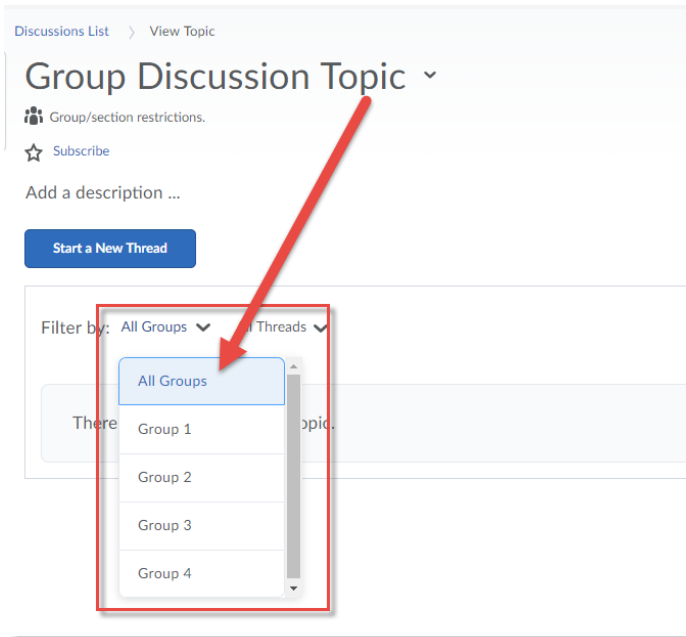
Title *
Description

Paragraph Paragraph Bold Italic Underline Link Unlink Bulleted List Numbered List Indent Outdent Font Family Size

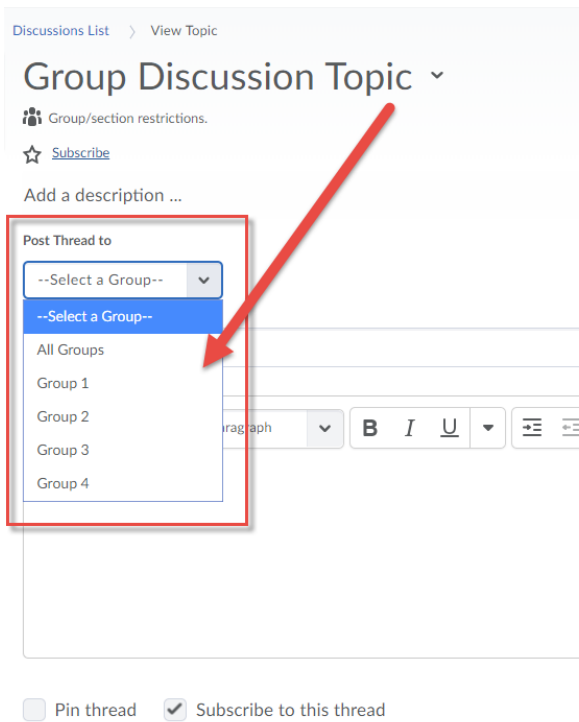
Save and Close Save and New Save Cancel



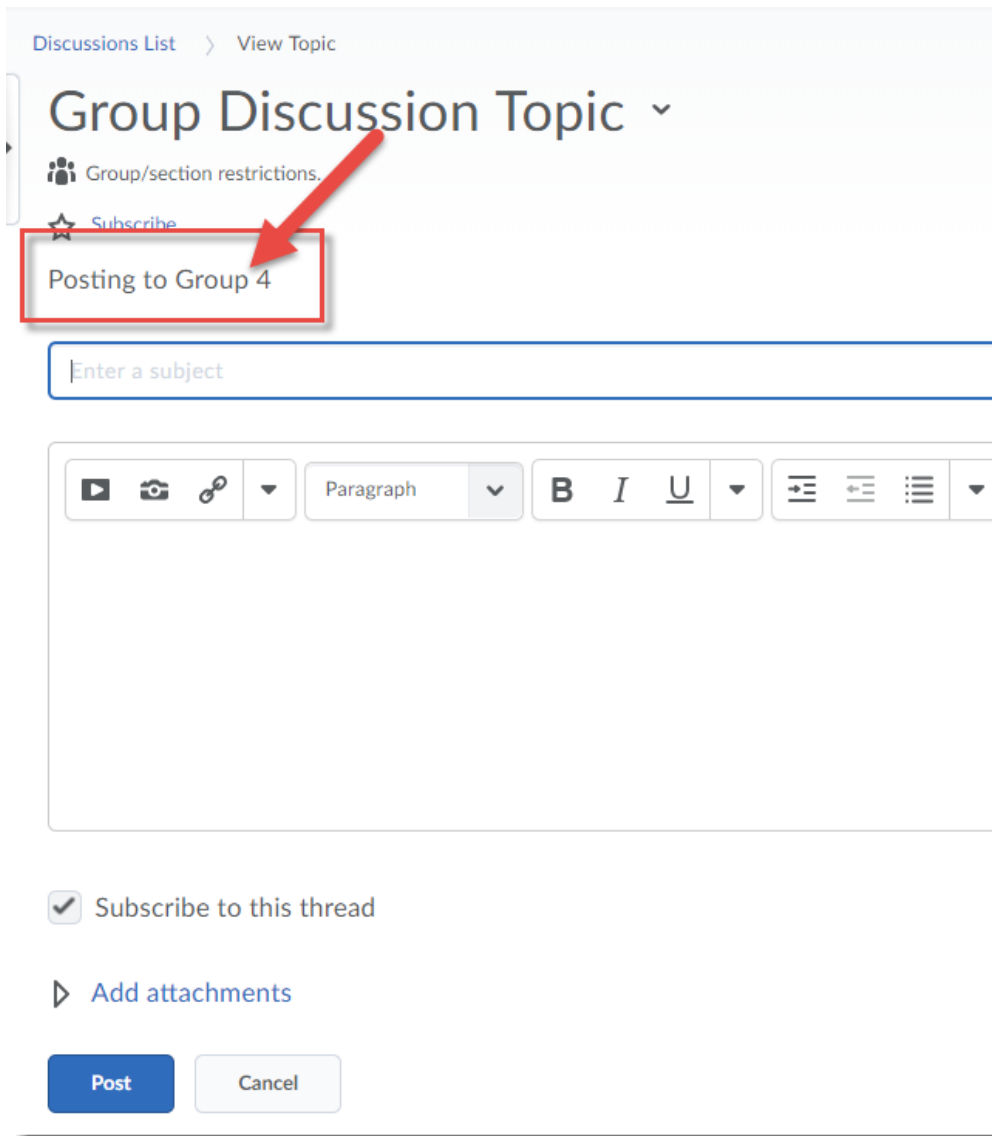
5. To see how this looks to you, as an instructor, click on the Topic title. Note that you can Filter what you see by Groups.



If you click on **Start a New Thread**, you can click the **Select a Group** drop-down menu to decide which group to post a Thread to, or choose to post to **All Groups**.



6. Now, here is what the Topic will look like to a student (*note that you cannot check this using View as Student as you are NOT an enrolled student in your course*). Student do not have an option to post to another Group, and will only see postings from other students in their group.



The screenshot shows a web interface for a "Group Discussion Topic". At the top, there are links for "Discussions List" and "View Topic". The main heading is "Group Discussion Topic" with a dropdown arrow. Below this, there is a "Group/section restrictions" section with a "Subscribe" link. A red box highlights a button labeled "Posting to Group 4", with a red arrow pointing to it from the text above. Below the button is a text input field with the placeholder "Enter a subject". Underneath is a rich text editor toolbar with icons for video, image, link, paragraph, bold, italic, underline, bulleted list, numbered list, and indent. Below the toolbar is a large text area for writing. At the bottom, there is a "Subscribe to this thread" checkbox (checked), an "Add attachments" link, and "Post" and "Cancel" buttons.

Things to Remember

Note that you can also use **Release Conditions** to restrict a Forum or a Topic to one specific group of students.

Also note that once you have saved your Topic as a **Group** topic, you CANNOT change it back to an **Open** topic.



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