



Reading View versus Grid View in Discussions – D2L Tutorial

This tutorial is designed for faculty who have previous experience using the Discussions tool D2L. For further information, please contact elarning@camosun.ca for assistance.

Scenario

This tutorial will explain the difference between Reading View and Grid View, and cover the steps involved when you want to change the view for a Topic or for your whole Discussion area.

Reading View versus Grid View

There are two ways to view Discussion Topic threads in D2L. The first is the default, called **Reading View**. **Reading View** for a Topic looks like this:

The screenshot shows the D2L Discussions interface in Reading View. At the top, there is a breadcrumb trail 'Discussions List > View Topic', navigation links for 'Settings' and 'Help', and a search box containing 'Search Why are y...'. The main heading is 'Why are you here?' with a dropdown arrow and a 'Subscribe' button. Below the heading, a paragraph explains the topic: 'This Topic is called "Why are you here?". Post 1-2 paragraphs explaining why you are taking this course and about what your learning expectations are (i.e., what are the top three things you hope to learn from this course)'. A blue button labeled 'Start a New Thread' is visible. The main content area has a 'Filter by: All Threads' dropdown and a 'Sort by: Most Recent Activity' dropdown. Two discussion threads are listed:

- Wendell's Introduction** (dropdown arrow)
Training01 Student posted Apr 2, 2020 3:41 PM [Subscribe](#)
Hi everyone! I am here to learn more about being a student at Camosun College!
more
0 Unread, 1 Replies, 5 Views
Last post yesterday at 4:04 PM by Training02 Student
- Student 1's Video for discussion** (dropdown arrow)
Training01 Student posted Sep 26, 2019 10:26 AM [Subscribe](#)
In this video, I discuss different kinds of media.
more
0 Unread, 0 Replies, 0 Views

At the bottom, there is a pagination control showing '< 1 / 1 >'.



The second view is **Grid View**, and it looks like this (for the same Topic we showed for **Reading View**):

Discussions List > View Topic Settings

Why are you here?

[Start a New Thread](#) [Refresh](#) [Mark All Read](#) [More Actions](#)

★ [Subscribe to Topic](#) View: Threaded [Apply](#)

Search For... [Show Search Options](#)

[Mark Unread](#) [Delete](#) [Print](#)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Flag	Lock	Star	Subject	Authored By	Date
<input type="checkbox"/>	Flag		Star	Student 1's Video for discussion	Training01 Student	Sep 26, 2019 10:26 AM
<input type="checkbox"/>	Flag	Lock	Star	▼ Wendell's Introduction	Training01 Student	Apr 2, 2020 3:41 PM
<input type="checkbox"/>	Flag		Star	Wendell's Introduction	Training02 Student	Oct 5, 2020 4:04 PM

20 per page

[Reply](#) [Edit Post](#) [More Actions](#) [Open in a New Window](#)

[Next](#)

[Flag](#) **Wendell's Introduction**
Training01 Student Apr 2, 2020 3:41 PM [★ Subscribe](#)

Attachments:

[SubscribingToDiscussions-August2018.pdf](#) (694.01 KB)

Hi everyone! I am here to learn more about being a student at Camosun College!

Note that in **Grid View**, you can pull the centre gray bar up and down to expand/shrink the two panels.

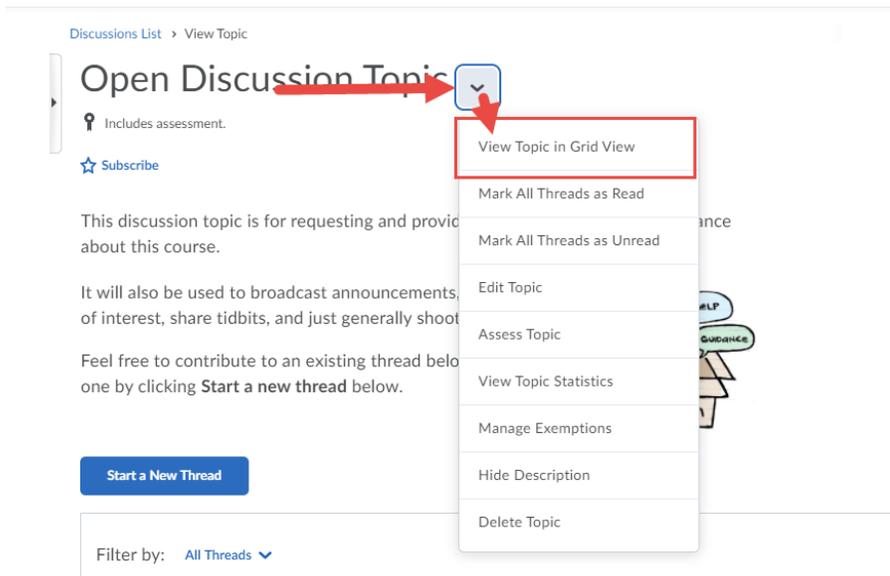
Now we will look at the two ways you can access **Grid View** (or change between **Reading View** and **Grid View**) to help you better navigate Discussions. You can either look at an individual Topic in Grid View temporarily, or change the view in your Discussions area more permanently.



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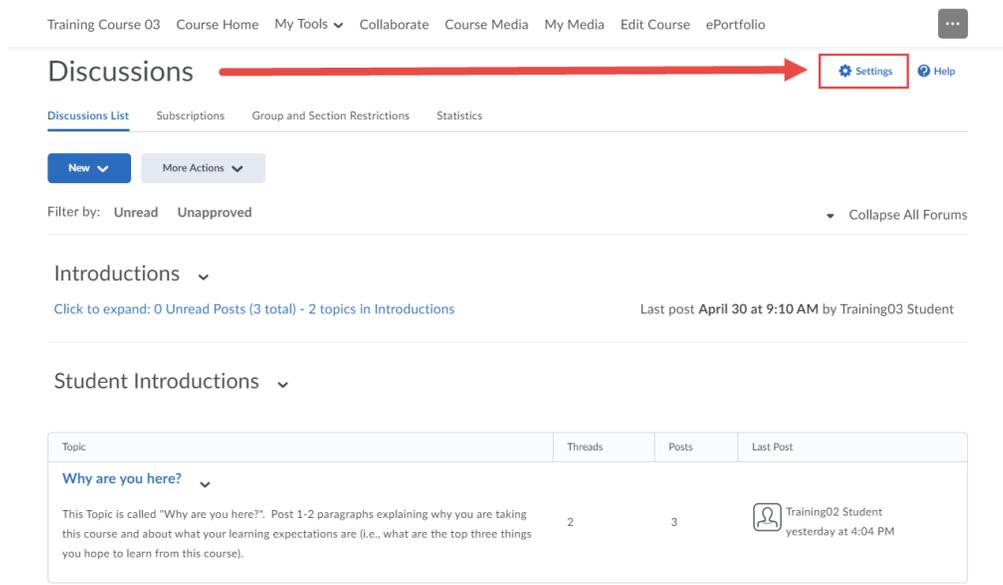
Steps for viewing an individual Topic in Grid View (temporary)

1. Go to the **Discussions** tool in your course.
2. Click the down-arrow next to the title of the **Topic** you wish to view and select **View Topic in Grid View**. Note that next time you go back to this Topic, you will need to select this again – it will NOT become the default view for the Topic.



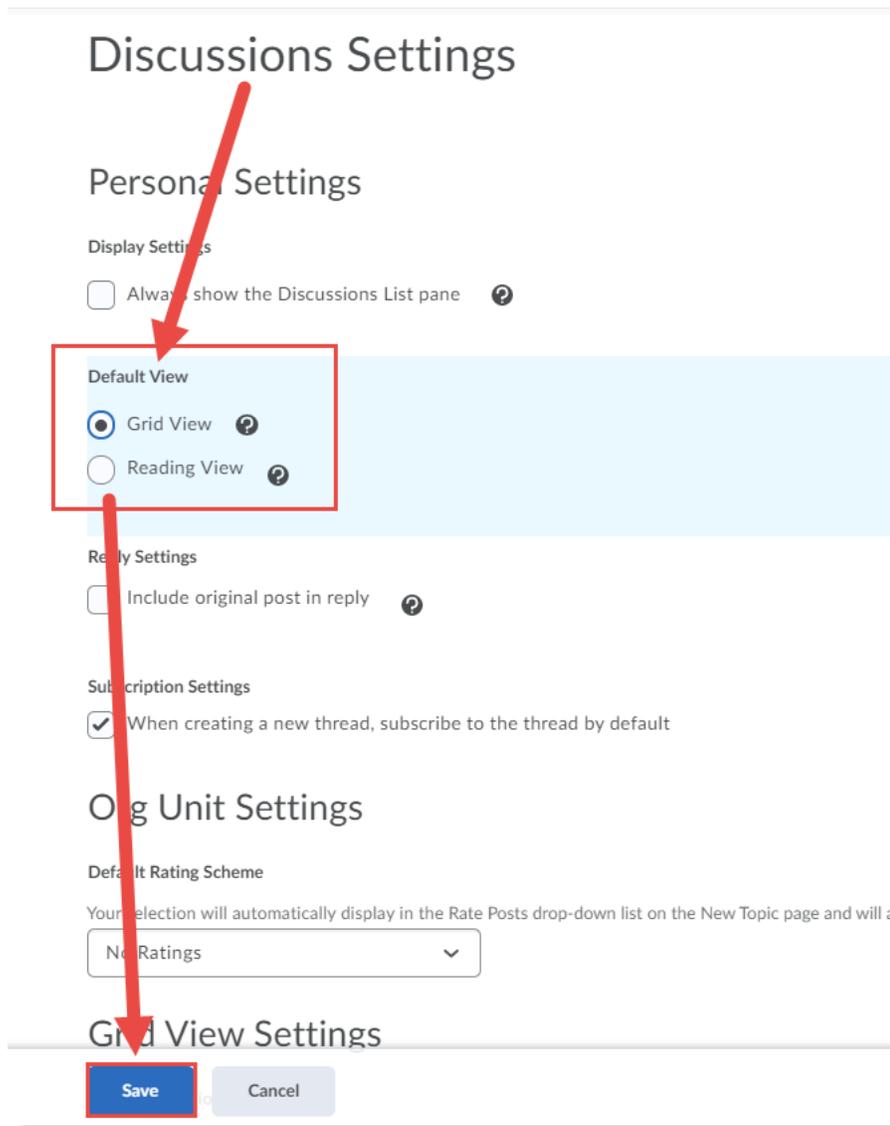
Steps for changing the view for all Topics to Grid View (“permanent”)

1. Go to the **Discussions** tool in your course.
2. Click **Settings** (at the top, right).



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3. Change the **Default View** to **Grid View** and click **Save**. You can change this setting back any time. And if your default view is Grid View, you will be able to select **View Topic in Reading View** for any individual Topic temporarily.



The screenshot shows the 'Discussions Settings' page. A red arrow points from the 'Default View' section to the 'Save' button. The 'Default View' section is highlighted with a red box and contains two radio button options: 'Grid View' (selected) and 'Reading View'. Below the 'Grid View Settings' section, there are 'Save' and 'Cancel' buttons. The 'Save' button is highlighted with a red box.

Things to Remember

Feel free to play around with these view settings. You may find one works better for one Topic, and the other for other Topics.

Also, note that these views have to be set by each individual using the Discussions tool – so let your students know about these options so they can change the settings for themselves.



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