



## 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 or assistance, go to our [Team Dynamix Support portal](#) and click the appropriate Category to submit a ticket.

### 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**.

Discussions

Settings Help

Discussions List Subscriptions Group and Section Restrictions Statistics

New More Actions

New Forum napproved Hide All Topics

New Topic

Forum for a Group Topic (grouped threads)

Teaching Example 1: Student Introductions

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

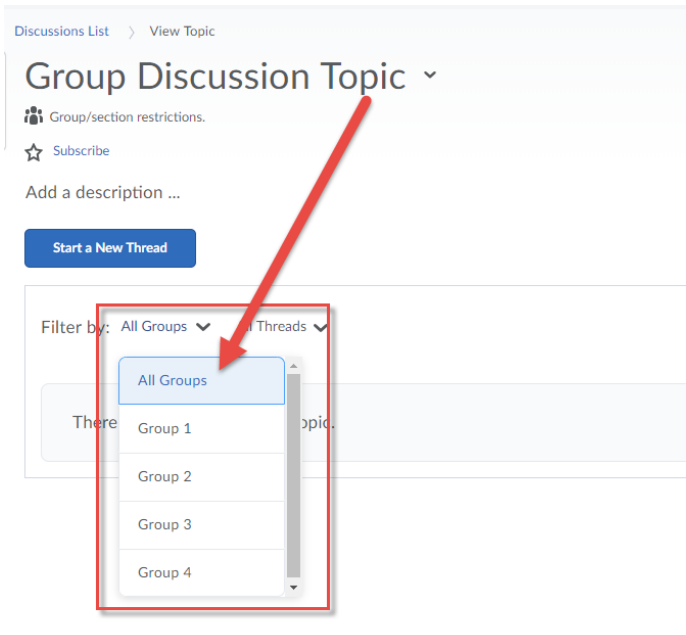
Title \*  
Description

Paragraph Paragraph Bold Italic Underline Bulleted List Numbered List Link Font Family Size

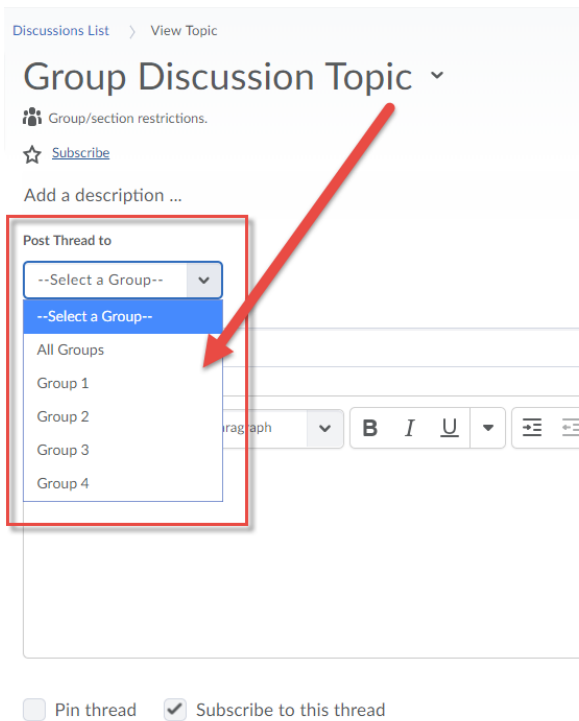
**Save and Close** Save and New Save Cancel



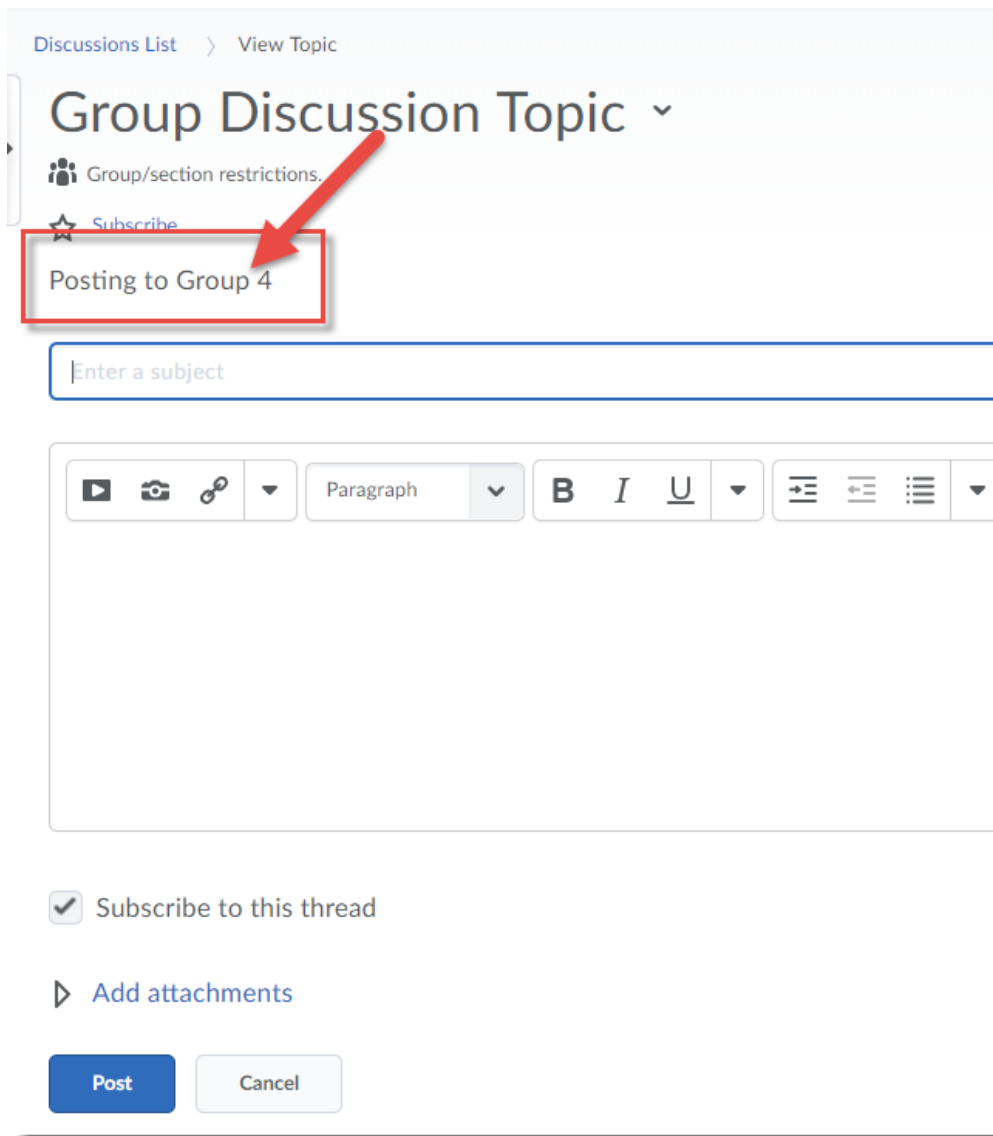
5. To see how this looks to you, as an instructor, click on the Topic title. Note that you can Filter what you see by Groups.



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 the heading, there are icons for "Group/section restrictions" and "Subscribe". A red box highlights the "Posting to Group 4" button, with a red arrow pointing to it. Below this is a text input field labeled "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 editor is a checkbox labeled "Subscribe to this thread" which is checked. There is also a link for "Add attachments". At the bottom, there are "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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