



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

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 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"/>	↻	📄	☆	Subject	Authored By	Date
<input type="checkbox"/>	↻		☆	Student 1's Video for discussion	Training01 Student	Sep 26, 2019 10:26 AM
<input type="checkbox"/>	↻	📄	☆	▼ Wendell's Introduction	Training01 Student	Apr 2, 2020 3:41 PM
<input type="checkbox"/>	↻		☆	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](#)

[↻](#) **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.

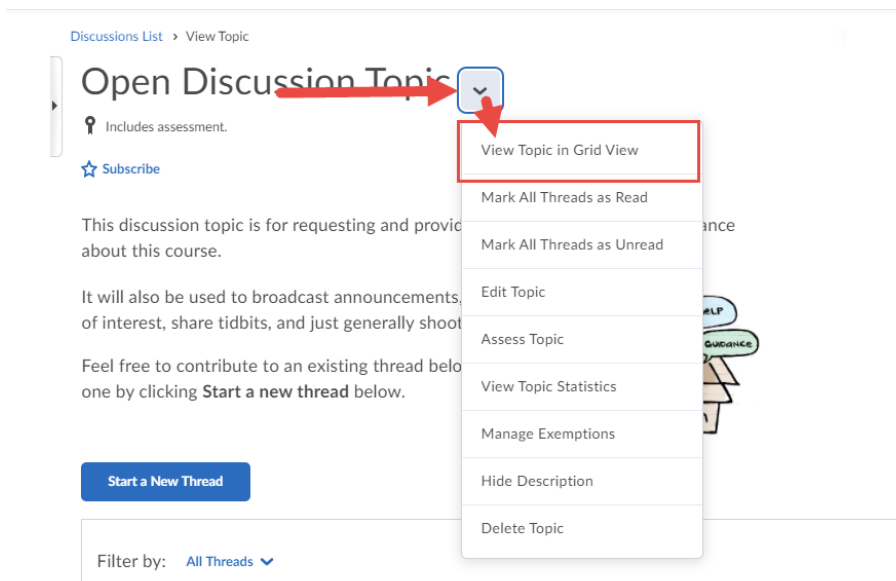
Now we will look at the two ways you can access **Grid View** (or change between **Reading View** and **Grid View**) to help you better navigate Discussions. You can either look at an individual Topic in Grid View temporarily, or change the view in your Discussions area more permanently.



This content is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence](#). Icons by the [Noun Project](#).

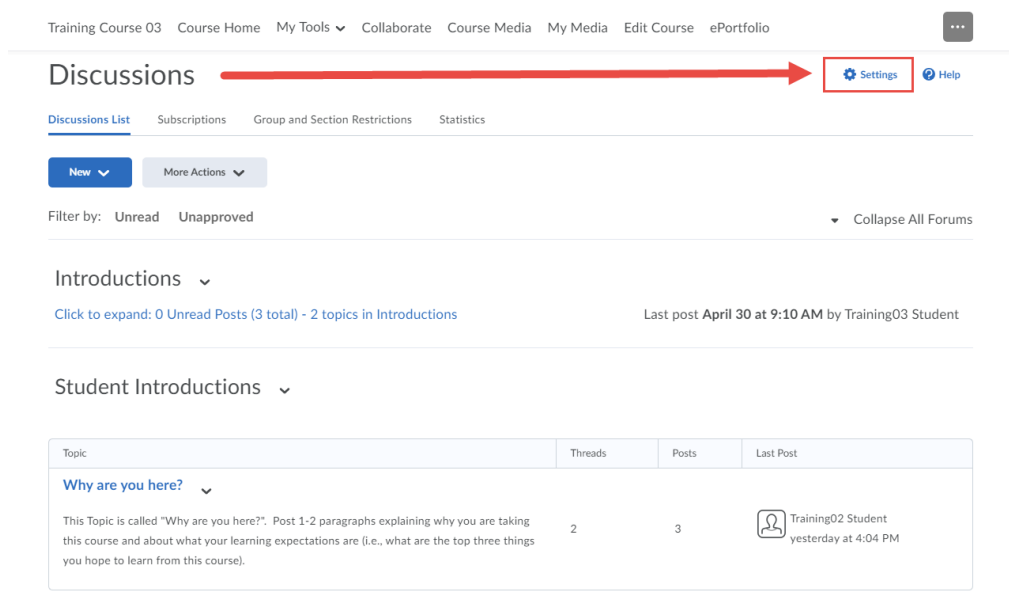
Steps for viewing an individual Topic in Grid View (temporary)

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).



This content is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). Icons by the [Noun Project](https://nounproject.com/).

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' interface. Under the 'Personal Settings' section, the 'Default View' is set to 'Grid View'. A red box highlights the 'Default View' section, and a red arrow points from the 'Grid View' radio button down to the 'Save' button at the bottom of the page. Other settings visible include 'Always show the Discussions List pane' (unchecked), 'Include original post in reply' (unchecked), and 'When creating a new thread, subscribe to the thread by default' (checked). The 'Default Rating Scheme' is set to 'No Ratings'.

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.



This content is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). Icons by the [Noun Project](https://nounproject.com/).