Using Discussion Forum Rubrics as a Teaching Strategy to Enhance Collaborative Learning in Online Courses

This best practice session introduces a recent study done by the presenter and two colleagues regarding the impact of using a discussion forum grading rubric to encourage and enrich discussions (posts) in an online course. In the study two experimental groups were given a specific grading rubric and instructions designed to encourage online conversation. The control group was not. The results indicated that the use of the rubric increased online classroom participation and enhanced the educational experience.

For the participants at the EdMedia World Conference on Educational Multimedia, Hypermedia & Telecommunications sponsored by AACE, this session will present details from this recent research on improving distance education, introduce and demonstrate rubrics as a pedagogical strategy to augment online teaching, and provide instructor training on the development and implementation of rubrics. The published study used as a basis for this best practice session is: Lee, M. R., Carstens, D. S., & Malone, L. C. (2011). Discussion forum rubrics: Using rubrics to enhance and increase project management students’ participation in online discussions. *Journal of Project, Program & Portfolio Management, Special Issue: Project Management Education in the Online World, 2*(2), 35-53.