

# Joining Online Discussions with Discus

To get started with Discus, you need to register. Registration is free and easy if you follow the instructions below. Send your browser (Netscape, Internet Explorer, etc.) to the following location:

<http://www.gst-d2L.com/discus>

or select the “Discus” link on the left hand side of your Chemistry homepage. You should see the following:

## Log In

[Log Out](#) | [Topics](#) | [Search](#)  
[Moderators](#) | [Register](#) | [Edit Profile](#)

Enter your username and password to enter this discussion forum.

Log In	
Username:	<input type="text"/>
Password:	<input type="password"/>
<input type="button" value="Log In"/>	
Forgotten password? <a href="#">Click here to restore access</a>	
Register for Account	
To register for an account, click the "Register" button below.	
<input type="button" value="Register"/>	

[Topics](#) | [Last Day](#) | [Last Week](#) | [Tree View](#) | [Search](#) | [Help/Instructions](#) | [Program Credits](#)

[Administration](#)

**If you have already registered**, enter your Username and Password, press “Log In” and begin using Discus.

**If you have not registered**, press the “Register” button. You will see a screen asking for your **Username**, **password**, and **Full name** – enter these values in the spaces provided. Do not uncheck the “Groups” button. It would be helpful to enter your **email address**. All other fields can be entered if desired, but they are optional. Press “Continue Registration”.





Assuming you did not make any errors in the registration entries, the next screen should say “**Registration Submitted**”. If you would like to input additional variables (such as email notification of messages, change password, etc.), select “Edit Profile”; but if you want to begin using Discus, select “Topics” in the lower left corner to go to the Discus chemistry topics.

Depending on which chemistry class you are currently enrolled in, you should see something similar to the following:

# Discus Chemistry Board Topics

[Log Out](#) | [Topics](#) | [Search](#)  
[Moderators](#) | [Register](#) | [Edit Profile](#)

Welcome to Discus! If you have any questions, please [email me](#).

Topic	Posts	Pages	Last Post	Last Poster
 <a href="#">Week #1 Discus Question (CH 221)</a>	1	1	10-07-04 07:49 pm	Eugene Strelets
 <a href="#">Chapter Guides "Experiences" Feedback</a> Post your "Experiences" feedback here on the various chapters.	1	1	01-22-05 11:08 pm	Russell Jones
 <a href="#">Feedback regarding Discus</a> What do you think of Discus? Place your comments here.	1	1	01-12-05 03:10 pm	Russ
 <a href="#">Web Quest Discussion Area</a> A webspace designed to encourage interactivity on Web Quests.	1	2	08-15-05 12:44 am	Michael Russell

Enjoy your visit! Peace, [Dr. Michael A. Russell](#).

[Topics](#) | [Last Day](#) | [Last Week](#) | [Tree View](#) | [Search](#) | [Help/Instructions](#) | [Program Credits](#)

[Administration](#)

In this example, you could select "Week #1 Discus Question (CH 221)" to see the question for this week. Remember that Discus questions expire after one week, so selecting the current week will ensure that you are able to submit an extra credit entry. Each week might have more than one conversation occurring, but the extra credit question will be clearly marked.

Select the topic question and read the material. When you are ready to add your own entry, use the "Add Your Message Here" text box.

Add Your Message Here

<b>Post:</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Username:</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Password:</b>	<input type="password"/>
<b>Options:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enable HTML code in message <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Automatically activate URLs in message
<b>Action:</b>	<input type="button" value="Preview/Post Message"/> <input type="button" value="Upload Attachment..."/>

Note that you will need to enter your username and password that you created during the registration process, above. Clicking on the "Preview/Post Message" will submit your message to the computer, but the computer gives you one more chance to make corrections to your email. If the preview looks ok, select the "Post This Message" button to submit your message to Discus. **Note that your message will not be posted until you select the "Post This Message" button.**

Congratulations! You should now see your message posted under the previous message.

**For fun**, click on "Help / Instructions" (lower left hand corner) followed by "Formatting" to see how you can add email links, URLs, bold, italics, and much more to your messages. The "Formatting" area describes the optional formatting codes used to enact these possibilities.

**On a final note**, you might want to take a second look at the "Edit Profile" link in the upper right corner. There are many additional options available to you as a Discus member. Let the instructor know if you have any questions about the different options, etc. available to you on Discus.