What is a Substantive Post in the Discussion Forums?

What a Substantive Post Does NOT Involve:

- Simply telling us how you “feel” or what you “like” or “dislike”
- Merely telling us whether you agree or disagree with your instructor, your classmates, or other sources
- Personal attacks
- Repeating content already forwarded by other participants in the discussion or in course materials
- Reporting that you have nothing to say

What a Substantive Post DOES Involve:

- Noting important ramifications of ideas
- Showing logical inconsistencies between ideas
- Making useful connections between course concepts
- Clarifying conceptual meanings
- Offering useful examples to ground ideas
- Problematizing ideas (showing us how what seems simple is really complicated)
- Suggesting how content and concepts can be applied to class assignments

**NOTE 1:** A substantive post is not necessarily long. A post can be a sentence or two long and be quite substantive. A post can be many paragraphs long and fail to offer a substantive contribution.

**NOTE 2:** A substantive post may appear in the form of a question, description, interpretation or evaluation. The form of the statement matters less than the function of productively forwarding our class dialogue.