**Lesson Plan**
This lesson plan is designed to help you teach using a Common Craft video. Use the information below to introduce the video and then follow the video with discussion questions and other resources.

---

**Online Discussion Forums**

**Explained by Common Craft**

In the real world, we depend on discussions for learning and socializing. It’s how we relate to one another. The same happens on the Web. Discussion forums give us a reliable way to organize and discover information from communication among people anywhere in the world.

**Learning Outcomes**

- Explain how the Internet allows people with like interests from all over the world to share in conversations and form communities
- Define terms related to discussion forums such as threads, lurkers, and moderators
- Describe how discussion forums and threads are organized
- Describe what is required to read and post to a discussion forum and best practices when participating in a discussion forum for the first time

**Discussion Questions**

**Q #1**
What discussion forums have you used before? When have they been the most useful?

**Q #2**
When sharing ideas with other people around the world, in which situations would you use an online discussion forum versus a video chat or another form of communication? Explain why.

**Q #3**
If you were to create an online discussion forum, what approach would you have to cultivating a productive and dedicated community for it?

---

**Knowledge Check Q&A**

**Q**
What is an online discussion forum?

**A**
It is a website where people can post and reply to each other in discussion. Each individual discussion is called a topic or thread. When responses come, they appear under the first post, usually with the oldest on top.

**Q**
What are lurkers?

**A**
These are people who follow the topics of a forum but don’t post very often.

---
What are moderators?

These are people who maintain and protect the forum.

Resources for Learning More

**Digital Trends**
Jacob O’Gara
“Reddit 101: A beginner’s guide to the front page of the Internet” 9/29/2014


**Wired**
Davey Alba
“Reddit’s Future is the Future of the Internet” 7/15/2015

https://www.wired.com/2015/07/reddits-future-future-internet/

**eLearning**
Christoforos Pappas
“10 netiquette tips for online discussions” 6/6/2015

https://elearningindustry.com/10-netiquette-tips-online-discussions

**Cornell University**
Center for Teaching Innovation
“Online discussions” 9/2017

https://www.cte.cornell.edu/teaching-ideas/teaching-with-technology/online-discussions.html

**New Statesman**
Amelia Tait
“Someone would always answer: The sad death of the internet message board” 2/9/2017


**New York Times (opinion)**
Virginia Heffernan
“The Old Internet Neighborhoods” 7/10/2011