

Thinkfinity

Discussion Forum Terms of Service Statement

Welcome to the Thinkfinity Discussion Forum, a tool to help you stay in touch with us and with each other. We hope that the Forums will provide you with a convenient way to discuss literacy issues with volunteers, literacy program staff and others.

What is a Discussion Forum?

A Discussion Forum (sometimes called a discussion or message board) is a tool to help you communicate online. It is similar to e-mail but you don't need an e-mail service in order to participate. Everyone participating in the forum can read all the messages, and can post new messages at any time. Old messages are saved or archived and are searchable by topic.

The messages on a Discussion Forum are organized by topic or "thread." Each message is an individual's contribution to the topic.

Discussion Forums are asynchronous and don't happen in real time like e-mail or chat. You can respond to any message at any time, or simply read the posted messages without commenting.

How to use the Thinkfinity Discussion Forum?

The **Thinkfinity** Discussion Forum can be accessed from the Discussion Forum menu option on the **Thinkfinity** home page (www.thinkfinity.org). In order to participate, you will be required to provide some information about yourself and establish a username and password.

There are several ongoing topics on the **Thinkfinity** Discussion Forum. You can respond to a message in a topic or post new messages at any time. See the topic on "netiquette" below for guidelines on communicating on the Discussion Forum. You will also find special topics or "guest speakers" appearing from time to time.

The **Thinkfinity** Discussion Forum is moderated. A member of the **Thinkfinity** staff will view all postings to ensure that the message is relevant to the topic and to filter inappropriate or offensive messages.

Benefits of Using the Thinkfinity Discussion Forum

The **Thinkfinity** Discussion Forum provides you with:

- A convenient, always-available resource
- A way to share your expertise and learn from others
- A tool for volunteers to communicate with each other

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“Netiquette” or Rules of the Road for the Thinkfinity Discussion Forum

In order to make the **Thinkfinity** Discussion Forum a productive and valuable resource, we ask you to observe the following guidelines:

- Please feel free to post responses to any and all posts that interest you.
- Before you submit a posting, please be sure you are responding to the correct topic and that the content is relevant to the **Thinkfinity** audience.
- Please do not send chain letters or messages that could be construed as commercial in nature or any other forms of solicitation.
- Avoid typing in all caps, as text written in all capitals is considered “shouting”.
- Attachments are not permitted. If a particular discussion requires additional material, it will be posted to/accessed from the **Thinkfinity** Resource Center.
- Divergent views on the **Thinkfinity** Discussion Forum are welcome but postings containing inappropriate language or personal attacks will be deleted by the moderator.
- In order to participate in the **Thinkfinity** Discussion Forums, you must submit your e-mail address. However, you can choose not to make it available to the other Forum participants.

We hope you enjoy the **Thinkfinity** Discussion Forum. If you have any questions, please contact **Thinkfinity** at <http://www.thinkfinity.org>.

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