

Forum Screenshots for Faculty

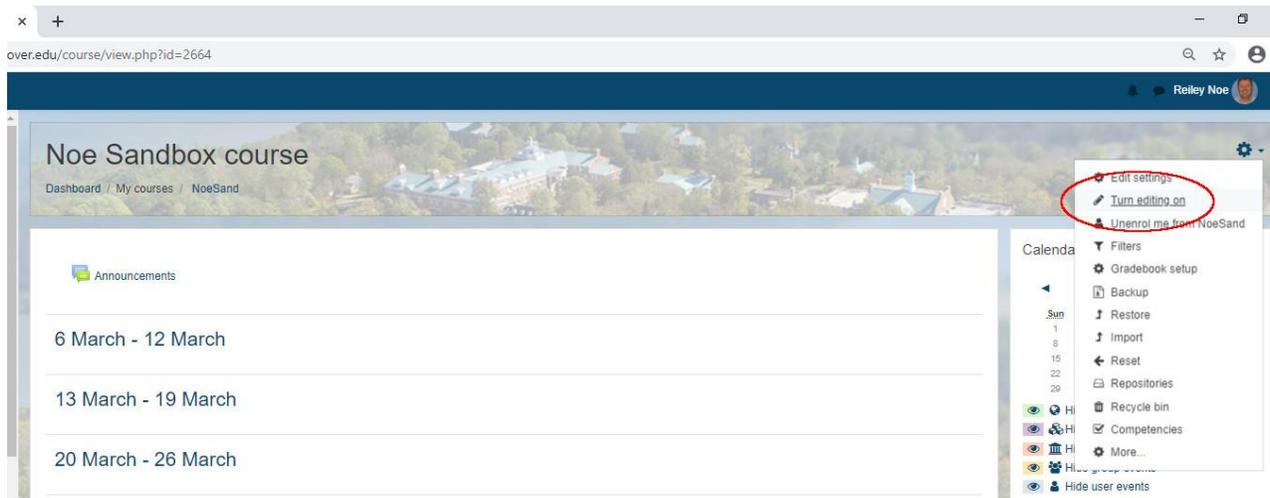
A forum in Moodle is similar to an online discussion board. You can use it to interact with students and allow some asynchronous discussion of readings or other concepts directed by a prompt.

This short video gives an overview of Moodle Forums.

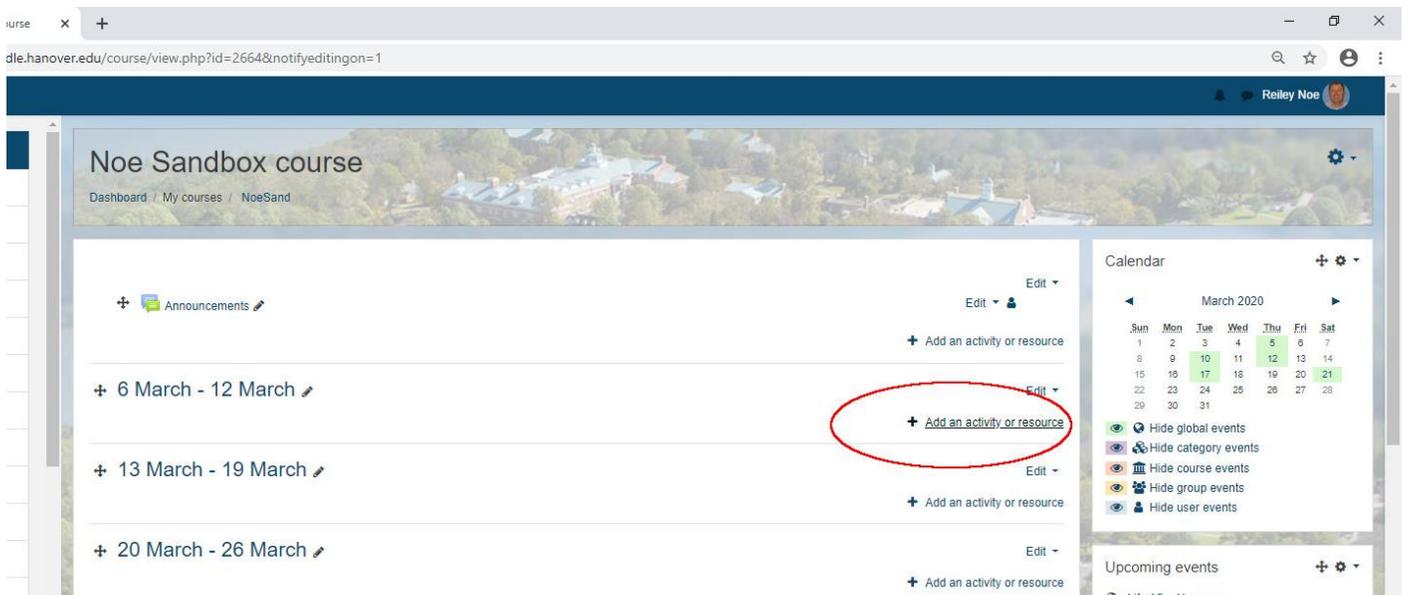
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IhHIEQ_pOXU&list=PLxcO_MFWQBDdoXpGILaTAj8S6O8-l6nRR&index=25&t=0s

How to make a Standard Forum for General Use:

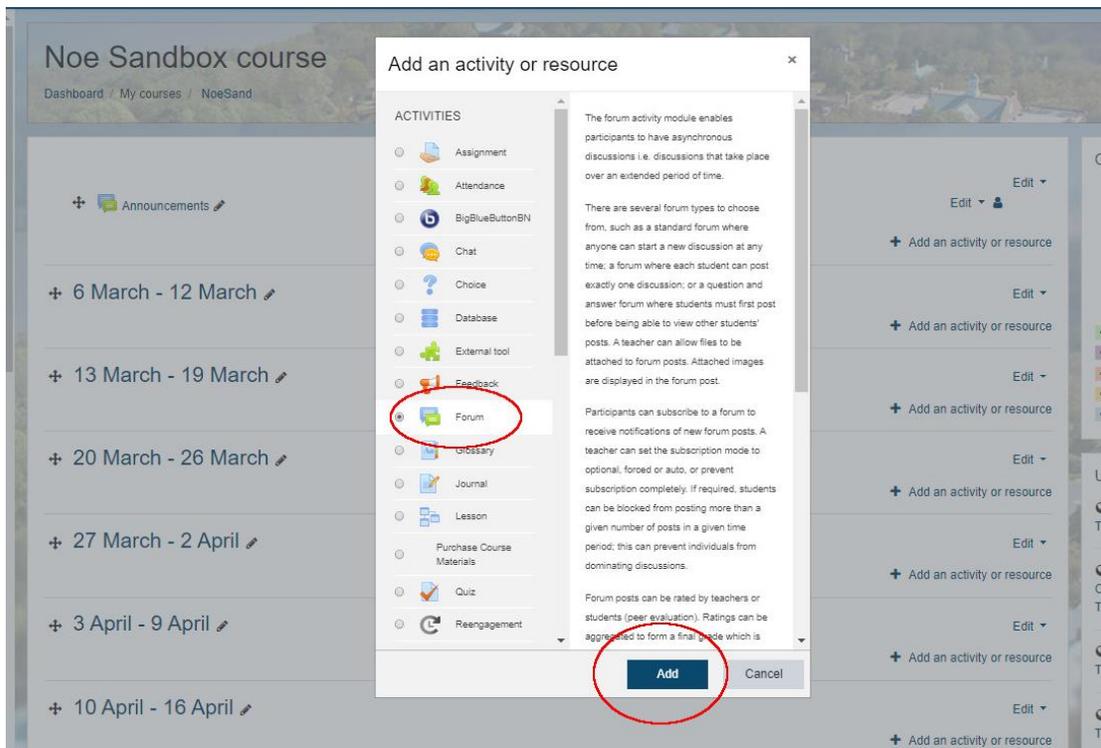
1. Click on the **Gear** and **Turn Editing On**



2. Click on **Add an Activity or Resource** during the week that you want to hold the forum.



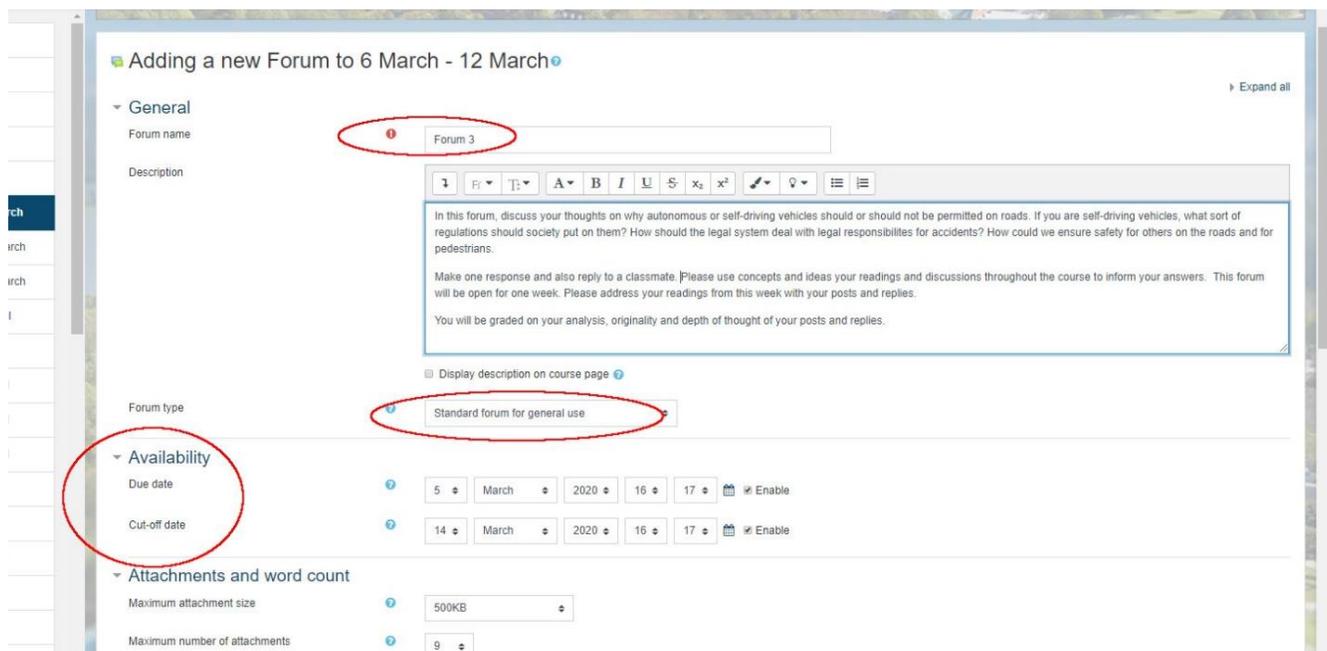
3. Click on the **Radio button to the left of Forum** and then click **Add**



4. **Name the forum and write a prompt.** You may want to specify that they deal with a specific reading, or reflect on something. You may want to consider having them create a substantial reply to a posting. You can specify in the settings the length of a posting. Allowing a shorter number of words will allow the best ideas to be available to all students and prevent hyper-aggressive students from dominating the forum.

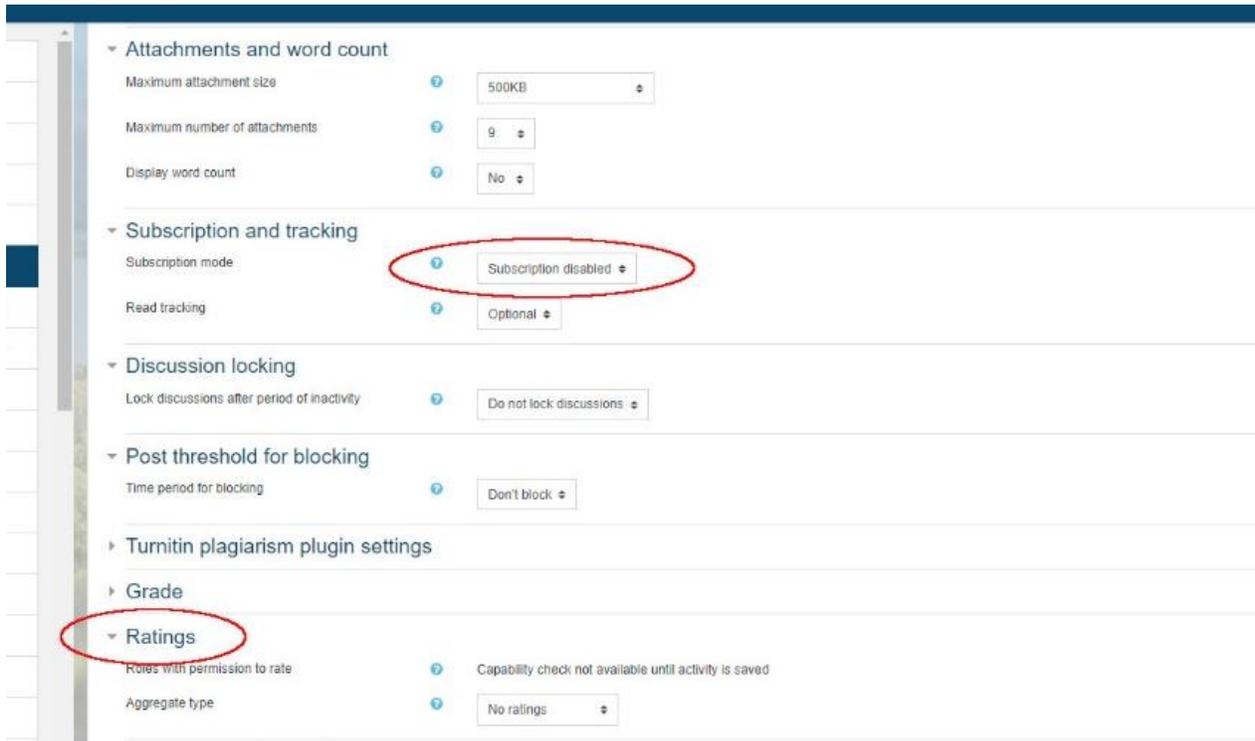
Make sure to specify a due date – the date that the postings must be done by, **and a cut off date**, the last, drop-dead date to reply to post for a specific forum.

See the end of this document for information on how to hide and show a forum on the course page.

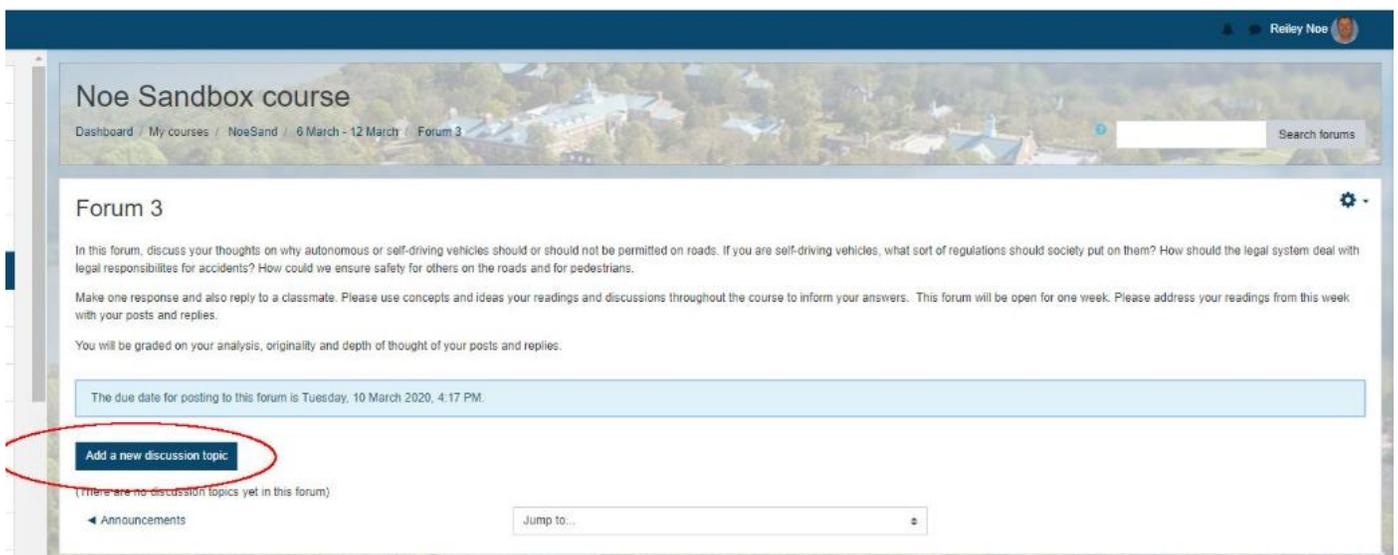


5. **Make sure to select disable subscription in the drop down menu** – this will prevent you getting a notification for every post and reply. You'll hate yourself if you skip this step.

Ratings are a way to tabulate grades for postings. At the end of this document, you'll see a YouTube video explaining a time-saving way to grade forum postings with ratings.



6. If you click **Save and Display** at the bottom of the page, you'll see this screen. The button will allow posting.



- When the student makes a post, he or she will have to name their post and then add their thoughts inside the text editing area. **Clicking Post to Forum** will post the comments. He or she has only a short period of time after it has been posted to make changes – generally around 15 min to a half hour.

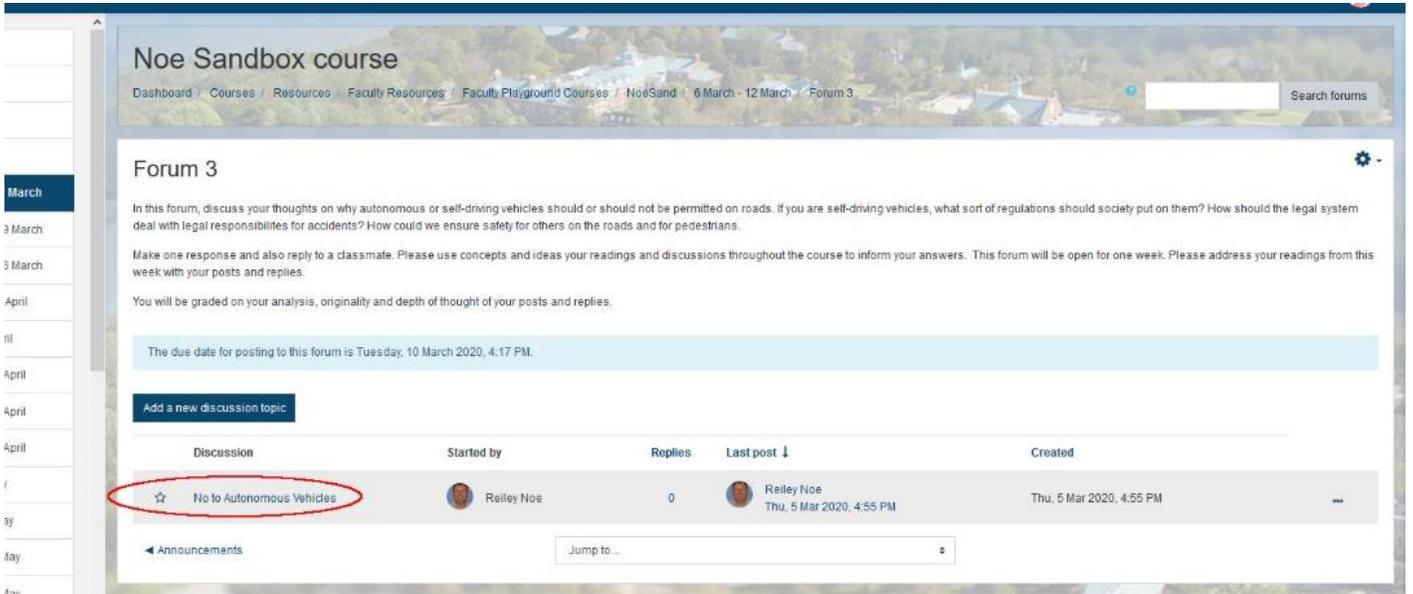
- This is what the forum looks like after the first post.

Note the green ribbon that reminds the student that they can make changes to their posting for only a limited amount of time.

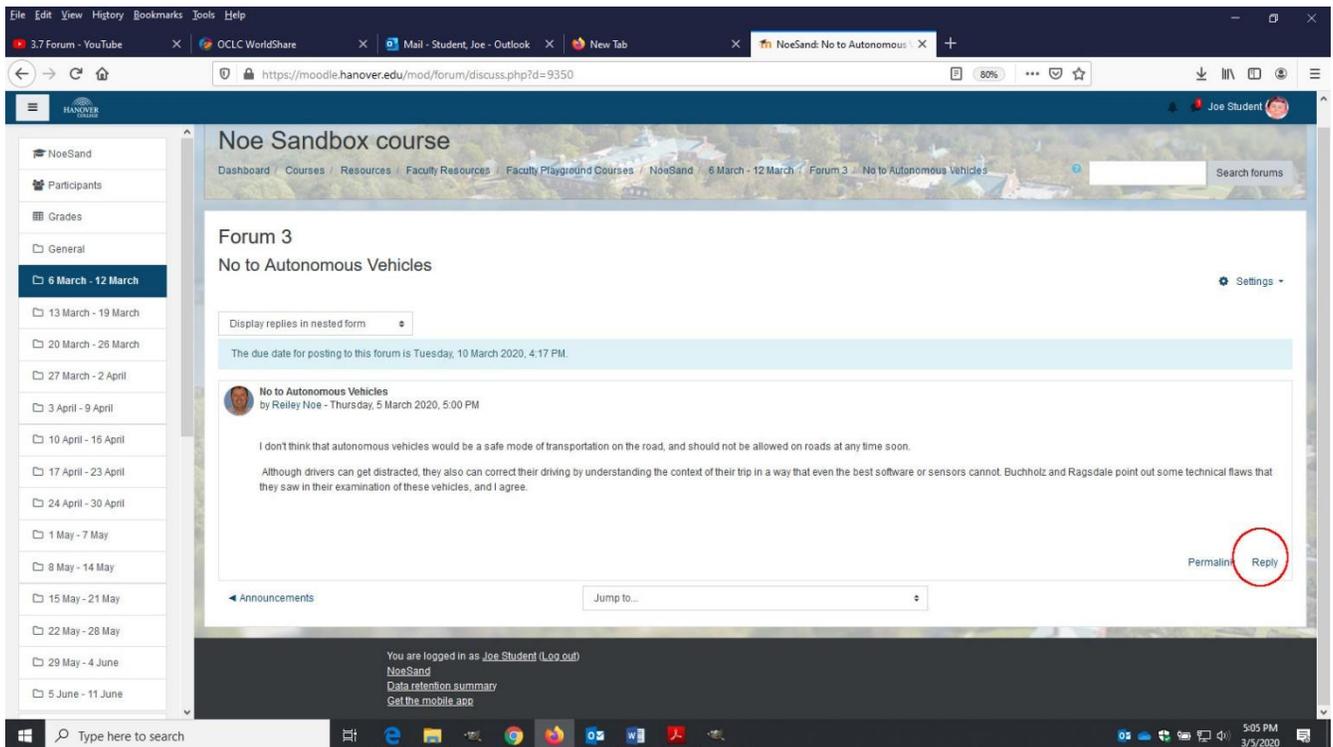
Discussion	Started by	Replies	Last post ↓	Created
☆ No to Autonomous Vehicles	Reiley Noe	0	Reiley Noe Thu, 5 Mar 2020, 5:00 PM	Thu, 5 Mar 2020, 5:00 PM

At the bottom of the page, there is a 'Jump to...' dropdown menu with 'Announcements' selected.

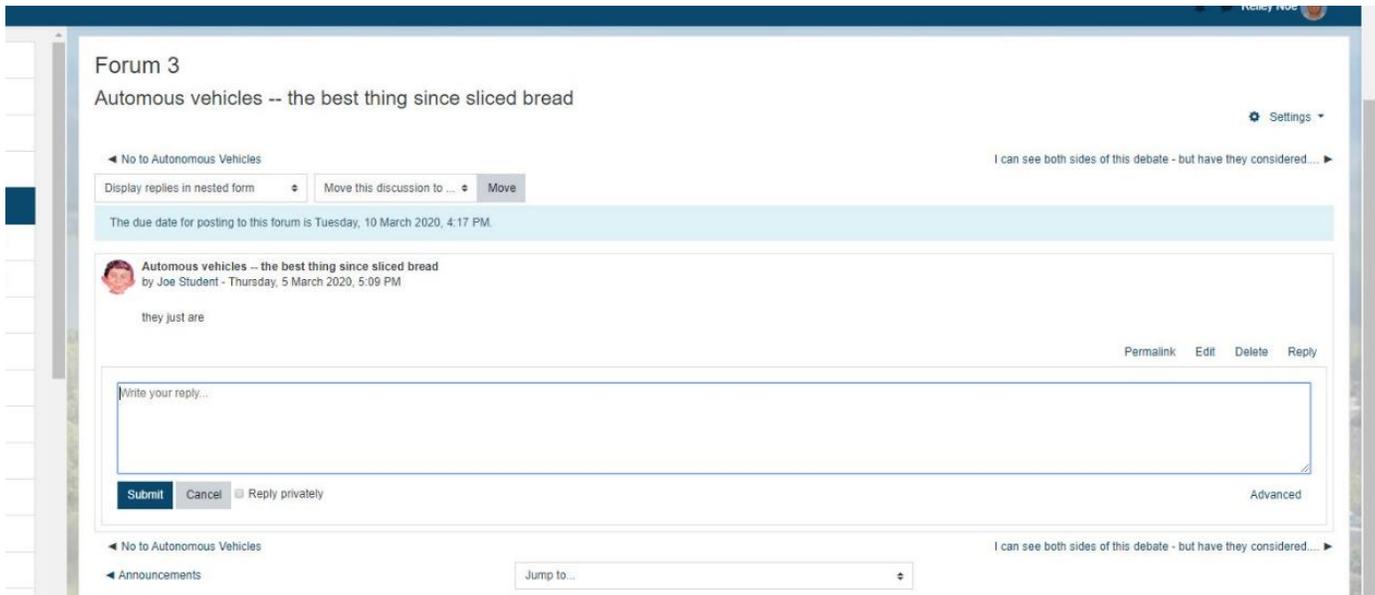
9. To reply, a student **clicks the link to the left of the post** that they want to comment on.



10. They'll click on the **Reply** link to make their reply....

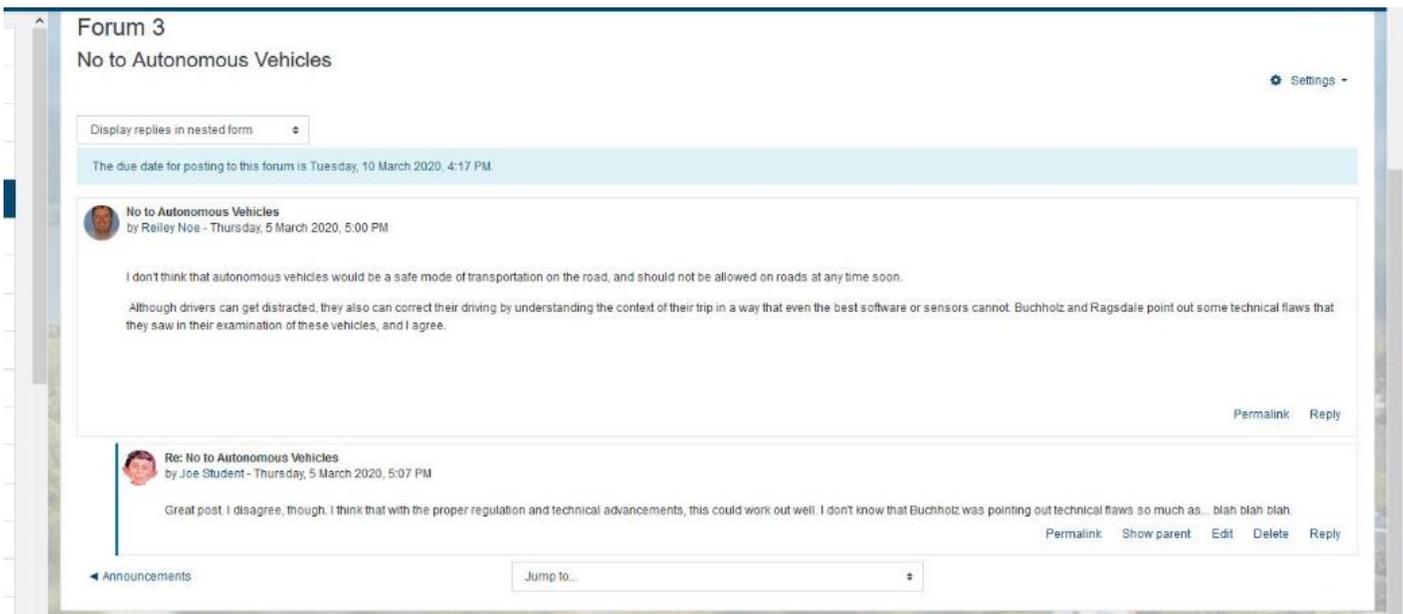


11. They will input their reply and click **Submit** to post their reply.



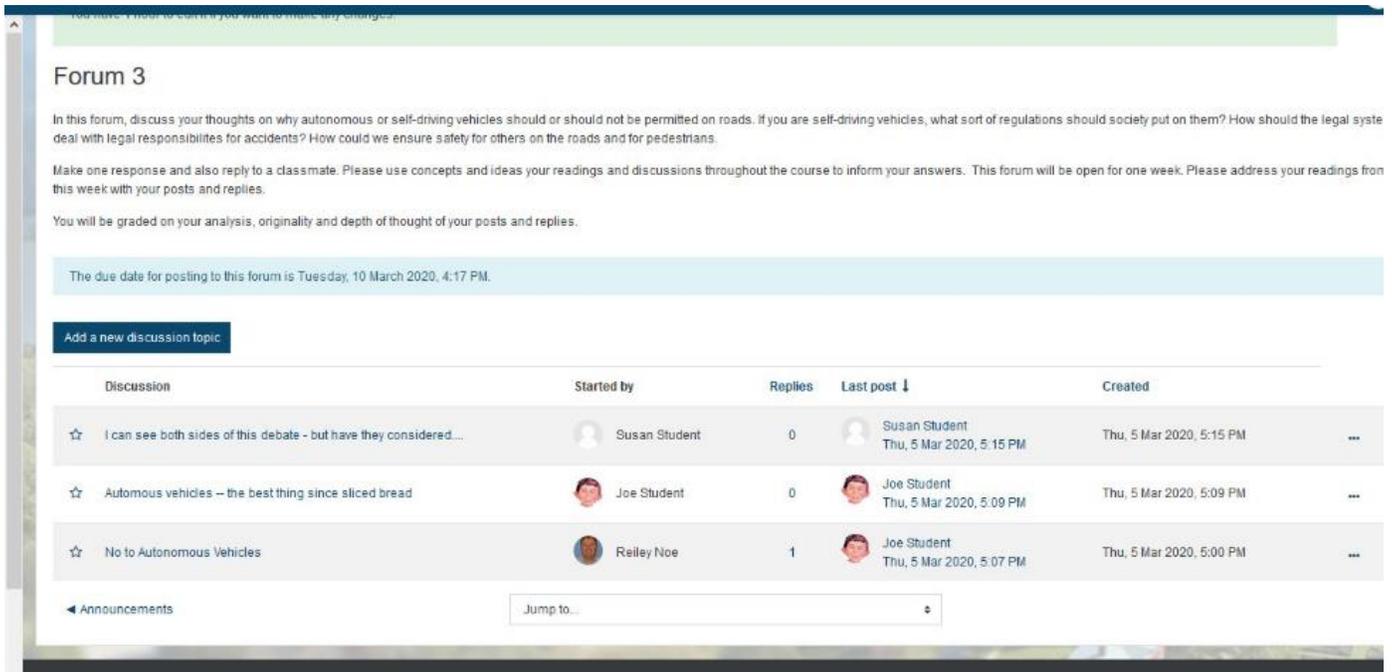
The screenshot shows a forum page titled "Forum 3" with the main topic "Autonomous vehicles -- the best thing since sliced bread". A user named "Joe Student" has posted a reply with the text "they just are". Below the post is a text input field labeled "Write your reply..." and a "Submit" button. There are also "Cancel" and "Reply privately" options. The interface includes navigation links like "No to Autonomous Vehicles" and "Announcements", and a "Jump to..." dropdown menu.

12. This would be how their reply would display when someone clicks on it.



The screenshot shows the same forum thread, but now displaying a post by "Riley Noe" titled "No to Autonomous Vehicles". The post text reads: "I don't think that autonomous vehicles would be a safe mode of transportation on the road, and should not be allowed on roads at any time soon. Although drivers can get distracted, they also can correct their driving by understanding the context of their trip in a way that even the best software or sensors cannot. Buchholz and Ragsdale point out some technical flaws that they saw in their examination of these vehicles, and I agree." Below this post is a reply by "Joe Student" titled "Re: No to Autonomous Vehicles" with the text: "Great post. I disagree, though. I think that with the proper regulation and technical advancements, this could work out well. I don't know that Buchholz was pointing out technical flaws so much as... blah blah blah". The interface includes navigation links, a "Jump to..." dropdown menu, and a "Permalink" link for the reply.

13. After several posts and replies the forum screen looks like this:

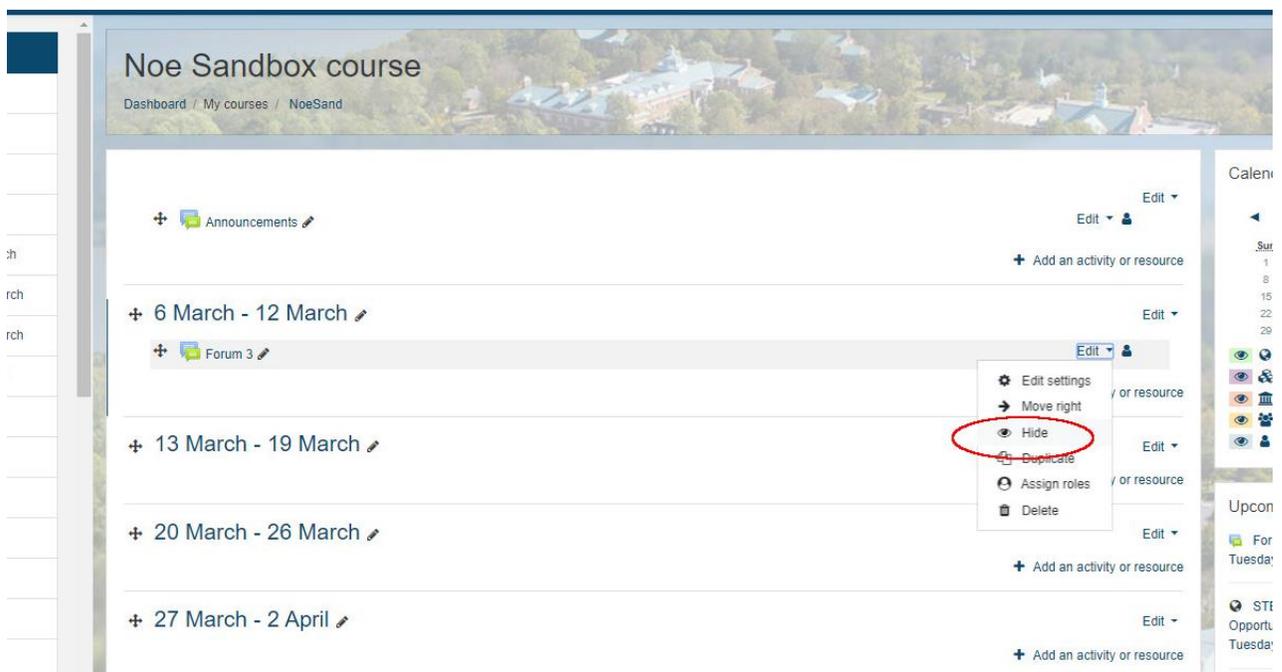


Hiding and showing a Forum

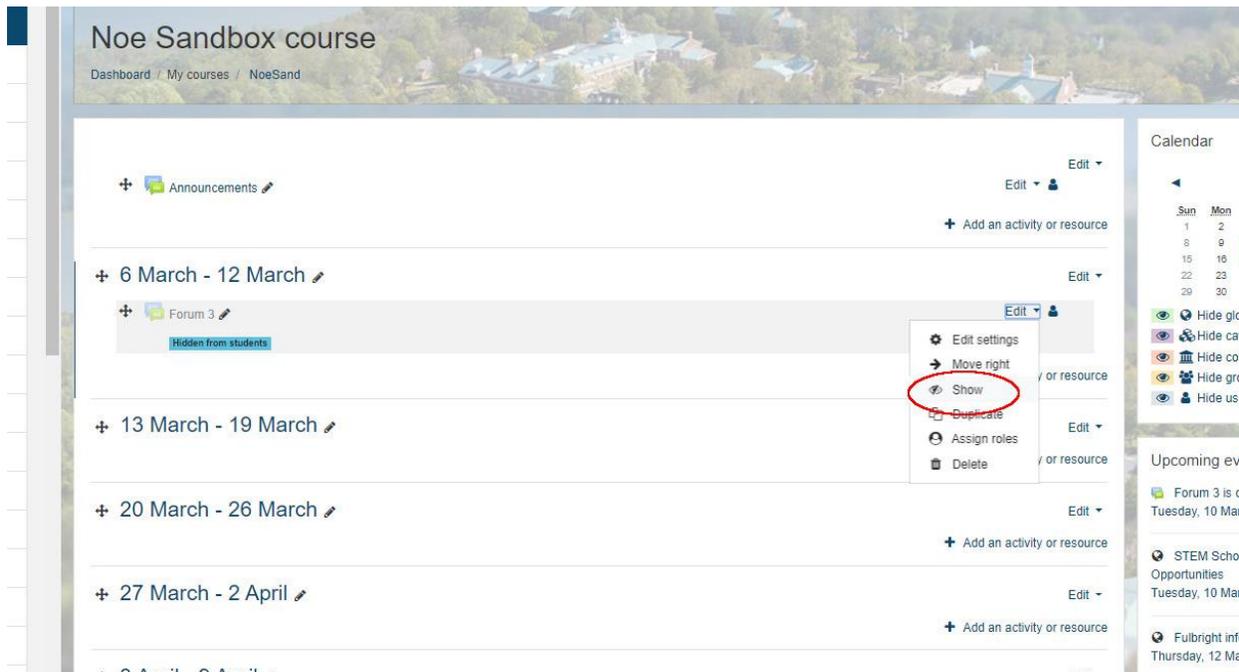
13. Hiding a Forum

If you want to hide the forum until the week that you'll be allowing postings, go to the course front page. Find the forum that you want to hide and click on the **Edit Settings** across from it in the menu.

The drop-down menu has a selection to **Hide** the Forum.



14. By clicking **Edit Settings** on a hidden forum, you can make it visible, too by selecting **Show** which will appear in the drop-down menu in the same location that **Hide** had appeared.



Grading a Forum

This brief YouTube video by Benjamin Kahn outlines an easy way to grade forums.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nCJgFyPSYyq>