

Quickstart Guide to Ed Discussions

THE MCGRAW CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

Ed is an online platform for discussion and class collaboration that supports Q & A, equations, runnable code snippets, and polling. The tool is available for use in Princeton classes through Blackboard and Canvas.



The Ed Interface

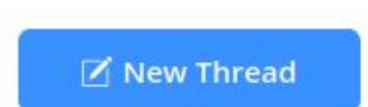
Features of Ed Discussion generally fall into two areas: **Discussion** and **Sway**. These two areas are available from links in the main toolbar in the upper-right hand corner of the screen. The toolbar includes:



- **Discussion** - a threaded discussion board that includes features for embedding Latex and programming code
- **Sway** - tools for offering many types of quizzes, conducting surveys and getting collective feedback in polls and wordclouds.
- **Analytics** - if you are Ed associated with a course in which you are the instructor, a link to view discussion statistics as visualizations and to export data about your course discussions.
- **Course configuration** - course-specific settings such as private threads and comments and comment categories.
- **Home** - a link to a gallery of all of your Ed courses
- **Notifications** -
- **Profile** - links to set personal profile settings and to log out of the system

The discussion interface

Discussion in Ed exists within **threads**. Threads can be thematic, associated with specific assignments, or with weeks of the semester, but must be created before any discussion can occur.



1. Create a new thread by clicking the New Thread button.
2. A thread can be prompted by any of three comment types: **Question**, **Post**, or **Announcement**.
 - a. **Question** - prompt the students with a question. Students may provide answers and reply to each other's answers. The instructor can 'endorse' answers.
 - b. **Post** - provide a thread prompt with a comment.
 - c. **Announcement** - same as a Post, but with the option too email the students about the new thread.

3. Add a title and content body and click **Post** to begin the thread. (Note that both the title and content of any post may contain embedded LaTeX code.)

The editor



The toolbar in the editor window that appears when one creates a new post contains many tools, such as bold, italics, and outlined lists, that one would expect to find in such an editor, but also contains some extra quite useful tools:

- **Insert Image** - upload an image from your computer or embed using the URL of an existing image on the Web.
- **Insert Video** - add the URL to a video on YouTube or Vimeo to embed that video in your post.
- **Insert File** - upload a file from your computer
- **Insert Math** - a graphical LaTeX code editor. (Note: you can also insert LaTeX directly in your posts by surrounding the code with double dollar signs, such as $\frac{2}{3}$)
- **Insert Code Snippet** - insert programming code from a long list of possible programming languages, including Java, R, Python 2 and 3, Ruby and many more. After selecting this option, click the dropdown labeled 'Text' to see the full list of options.
- **Insert Web Snippet** - a self-contained website within a post, this tool allows users to write HTML, CSS, and Javascript and to render the result embedded in a post.
- **Insert Image Annotation** - draw upon images that have been uploaded previously with a pencil, highlighter and other drawing tools.