

Joining Online Discussions with Discus

To get started with Discus, you need to register. Registration is free and easy if you follow the instructions below. Send your browser (Firefox, Safari, Chrome, Internet Explorer, etc.) to the following location:

<http://discus.mhchem.org>

or select the “**Discus**” link on the left hand side of your Chemistry homepage. You should see the following:

The screenshot shows the top of a phpBB forum page. The header is blue with the phpBB logo (creating communities) and the title "Discus Chemistry Discussion Board". Below the title is a subtitle: "A discussion board for Dr. Michael Russell's CH 221, CH 222 and CH 223 students at Mt. Hood Community College!". A navigation bar contains a "Board index" link, a search icon, and links for "FAQ", "Register", and "Login". The current date and time are shown as "It is currently Thu Apr 28, 2011 10:43 am". A message box states "This board has no forums.". Below this is a "LOGIN • REGISTER" section with input fields for "Username:" and "Password:", a checkbox for "Log me on automatically each visit", and a "Login" button. A "WHO IS ONLINE" section indicates "In total there are 2 users online :: 1 registered, 0 hidden and 1 quest (based on users active over the past 5 minutes)".

If you have already registered, enter your Username and Password, press “Login” and begin using Discus.









If you have not registered, click the “**Register**” link (next to “FAQ” and “Login” in the middle right.) First you will see the legal words from the phpBB group – press “**I agree to these terms**” to continue.

You will see a screen asking for your **Username**, **e-mail address**, a **password** and your **real name** (without your real name, the instructor will not know who to assign extra credit too!) – enter these values in the spaces provided. There is a “confirmation of registration” area – enter the code (to “prove” you are more than just a machine entering these values! ☺), and then select “**Submit**”.

Now **verify your email address** with Discus. Go to your email (the address you entered in the registration) and look for an email that states **Welcome to “Discus Chemistry Board”**. Click the link in the email to activate your account. Discus will tell you that your account has now been activated – *congratulations!*

Login to Discus using the information you provided earlier. Discus will look something like the screen on the next page of this handout. Some of the “Forum Topics” are available to you all the time (such as the “Homework Discussion Area”) and they might prove helpful to explore.

To receive **extra credit**, look for the topics that look something like “**CH 223 Week #5 Question**”. If you are in CH 221, the forum topics will say CH 221 instead of CH 223; and the Week number will vary depending on the chronological position of the term. Click on one of these topics to see the “question of the week.” Note that the “question of the week” forum topics expire after one week to be replaced by a new topic... so select the current week to get extra credit. Previous weeks can be viewed, but not replied to once the time limit has passed.

CHEMISTRY	TOPICS	POSTS	LAST POST
 Homework Discussion Area Start a Homework Related Discussion!	3	3	by admin  Wed Apr 27, 2011 9:22 pm
 CH 223 Week #5 Question Write an Exam Question!	1	2	by Bobby  Thu Apr 28, 2011 10:35 am
 CH 223 Week #4 Question Vivisection	1	1	by admin  Wed Apr 27, 2011 3:55 pm
 CH 223 Week #3 Question Acids and Bases	1	1	by admin  Wed Apr 27, 2011 8:38 pm

Select the current week's question and read the material. When you are ready to add your own entry, click "Quick Reply" (shown below). "Post Reply" will work as well for more formatting options. Enter your response, and then click "Submit". More formatting options can be found under "Full Editor". Discus will verify that your response has been recorded... and you're done!

Quick Reply

Subject:

Re: Write an Exam Question!

Submit

Full Editor

Discus will verify that your response has been recorded. *Congratulations!* You should now see your message posted under the previous message.

If you have any additional questions regarding Discus, please do not hesitate to contact the instructor (mike.russell@mhcc.edu). Peace, -- Michael