Types of Forums:

The Forum activity allows students to have discussions that take place over an extended period of time. There are several types to choose from:

- a standard forum for general use where anyone can start a new discussion at any time
- a standard forum displayed in a blog-like format – an open forum where anyone can start a new discussion at any time
- a forum where each student can post exactly one discussion
- or a question and answer forum where students must first post before being able to view other student’s posts.

A teacher can allow files to be attached to forum posts, and attached images are displayed within the post.

Subscribing to Forums:

Participants can subscribe to a forum to receive notifications of new forum posts. A teacher can set the subscription mode to optional, forced or auto, or prevent subscription completely. If required, students can be blocked from posting more than a given number of posts in a given time period; this can prevent individuals from dominating discussions.

Examples of Ways to Use Forums:

- Teacher-only discussions (using a hidden forum)
- Course announcements (using news forum with forced subscription)
- Discussing course content or reading materials
- Extension activities (brain teasers for students to ponder)
- Help center where tutors and students can give advice

Restrictions:

Teachers can also add restrictions for forums such as:

- Date- prevent access until a specified date and time
- Grade- require students to achieve a specified grade
- User Profile- control access based on fields within the student’s profile
- Restriction Set- add a set of nested restrictions to apply complex logic