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Subject: 🌟 RSI Newsletter #3 - RSI in Action: Facilitating Group Discussion and Interaction

Hello, CHC Faculty!

First, did you know about the [CHC Fundamentals of RSI](#) micro-course? It only takes about an hour (great to submit as professional development!) and provides a terrific overview of RSI and how to implement it. I encourage you to check it out!

This week, as we continue our focus on strengthening regular and substantive interaction (RSI) in distance education courses, the spotlight is on **facilitating group discussion and interaction**.

Well-facilitated discussions help students process ideas, learn from one another, and feel connected to the course community. From an accreditation perspective, facilitating group discussion around course content is one of the recognized forms of substantive interaction in online classes.

One simple thing you can do right now

Review the language in your **home page, syllabus, and discussion assignments** to clearly explain:

- **Where** students will see your discussion facilitation
- **When** they can expect instructor interaction in discussions
- **How** they should use your feedback and prompts to improve their thinking

These expectations should be consistent and visible across your course - not limited to the discussion instructions alone.

Low-lift strategies that make discussion “count” as RSI

The attached ACCJC RSI Chart highlights several practical ways to make your discussion facilitation visible and meaningful in Canvas:

- Use **Discussions** or other tools like Harmonize, GoReact, Canvas Studio, and WeVideo (formerly PlayPosit) to support student interaction (you can find information about all these tools on the [SBCCD Faculty Resources DE Tools page](#))
- Post **group or class-level facilitation comments** that summarize themes, address misconceptions, and extend thinking

- Add a **clear header** to facilitation posts so students know they are class-level comments (not individual feedback)
- Enable relevant **Discussion permissions and notification settings** so students see and respond to facilitation (check out the *Discussions* section of the [Canvas Instructor Guide](#) and the *Profile and User Settings* section of the [Canvas Basics Guide](#))
- Consider asking students to **respond to your facilitation posts with questions** to deepen engagement

These small practices make your instructional presence visible, keep discussions academically focused, and strengthen the sense of learning community.

Looking ahead

This message is part of our bi-weekly RSI series, based on the Region 9 ACCJC RSI Chart . Each email highlights one area of regular and substantive interaction with strategies you can easily implement in Canvas.

Our goal is to make RSI **manageable, sustainable, and built into what you already do** - not an added burden. Strong discussion facilitation not only supports student learning, but also creates a more connected and engaging online course experience.

Thank you for all you do to support our students.



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“When a flower doesn’t bloom, you fix the environment in which it grows, not the flower.” – Alexander den Heijer