Criteria	Levels of Achievement		
	Meets Expectations	**Needs Improvement**	**Unsatisfactory**
Characteristics of initial post	**10 to 10 Points** • Provided response with rationale. • The post is substantive and reflects careful consideration of the literature. • Examples from the student's practice/experience are provided to illustrate the discussion concepts. • Addressed all required elements of the discussion prompt. • Well organized and easy to read.	**3 to 9 Points** • Provided response missing either substantive rationale, consideration of the literature, or examples from the student's practice/experience to illustrate the discussion concepts. • Addresses all or most of required elements. • Somewhat organized, but may be difficult to follow.	**0 to 2 Points** • Provided response with minimal rationale. • Does not demonstrate thought and provides no supporting details or examples. • Provides a general summary of required elements.
Support for initial post	**5 to 5 Points** • Cited minimum of **two** references: at least **one (1)** from **required course materials** to support rationale AND **one (1)** from peer-reviewed* references from supplemental materials or independent study on the topic to support responses. • The initial post is a minimum of 200 words excluding references.	**2 to 4 Points** • Missing one (1) required course reference AND/OR one (1) peer-reviewed reference to validate response. • Post has at least 200 words.	**0 to 1 Points** • Missing 1 or more of the correct type (course or peer-reviewed) or number of references to support response. • Post is less than 200 words or there's no post.

Responses to Peers	**10 to 10 Points**
	• Responses to colleagues demonstrated insight and critical review of the colleagues' posts and stimulate further discussion
	• Responded to a **minimum of two (2)** peers and included a minimum of one (1) peer-reviewed* or course materials reference per response.
	• Responses are a minimum of 100 words and are posted on different days of the discussion period by the due date**.**
		4 to 9 Points
		• Responses to colleagues are cursory, do not stimulate further discussion and paragraph could have been more substantial.
		• Responses missing one of the following:
		  o insight/critical review of colleague's post,
		  o OR respond to at least two peers,
		  o OR a peer reviewed*or course materials reference per response
		• Responses are a minimum or less than 100 words and posts were on the same date as initial post.
			0 to 3 Points
			• Responses to colleagues lack critical, in depth thought and do not add value to the discussion.
			• Responses are missing two or more of the following:
			  o insight/critical review of colleagues' post
			  o AND/OR response to at least two peers
			  o AND/OR a peer reviewed* reference per response.
			• Responses are less than 100 words, posted same day as initial post.

APA format*; Spelling/ Grammar/ Punctuation	**5 to 5 Points** • APA format** is used for in-text citations and reference list. • Posts contain grammatically correct sentences without any spelling errors.	**2 to 4 Points** • APA format is missing either in-text or at end of the reference list. • Posts contain some grammatically correct sentences with few spelling errors.	**0 to 1 Points** • Not APA formatted OR APA format of references has errors both in-text and at end of reference list. • Post is grammatically incorrect.

NOTE: No direct quotes are allowed in the discussion board posts.

*Peer-reviewed references include professional journals (i.e. Nursing Education Perspectives, Journal of Professional Nursing, etc. – see library tab on how to access these from database searches), professional organizations (NLN, CDC, AACN, ADA, etc.) applicable to population and practice area, along with clinical practice guidelines (CPGs - National Guideline Clearinghouse). All references must be no older than five years (unless making a specific point using a seminal piece of information) References not acceptable (not inclusive) are UpToDate, Epocrates, Medscape, WebMD, hospital organizations, insurance recommendations, & secondary clinical databases.

**Since it is difficult to edit the APA reference in the Blackboard discussion area, you can copy and paste APA references from your Word document to the Blackboard discussion area and points will not be deducted because of format changes in spacing.