

Discussion: Your IUPUI+ Profile

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"Discussion: Your IUPUI+ Profile" is designed to be the first discussion of the semester in an online class. It would also be suitable for a face-to-class class.

This discussion serves the following purposes:

1. It is an "icebreaker" that causes the students to get to know each other.
2. It familiarizes the students with the IUPUI+ Learning Profiles in a personal way. For example, the initial post requires students to personally identify with one of the profiles.
3. The initial post and the feedback post require students to reflect on their responsibilities in the learning process. In other words, by participating in the discussion, many students take ownership of their learning.
4. The feedback post requires students to self-critically assess their approach to learning. For example, many students report that they would like to be more of a "Communicator."

The discussion also addresses the university's goal to incorporate the IUPUI+ profiles into every class. The discussion reflects the theories of learning embedded in the IUPUI+ Profiles. Please visit <https://academicaffairs.iupui.edu/Strategic-Initiatives/IUPUI-Plus> for a concise statement explaining the development and utility of the profiles.

I designed the discussion to be generic and transferable. That is, it may be used across disciplines and levels. For example, I also use it in the capstone class for the Bachelor of General Studies.

Instructions

Here are the instructions implementing the Discussions in their entirety. They are deliberately brief and straightforward. Students have not expressed confusion with these instructions.

This work is available from the *The Digital Teaching Repository*, a peer-reviewed, online archive of instructional materials created by educators at IUPUI, IUPUC, and IU Fort Wayne (<https://scholarworks.iupui.edu/handle/1805/22346>).



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Discussion: Your IUPUI+ Profile

Part 1 – Initial post. *Introducing yourself by answering the following questions:*

- Which one of the four IUPUI+ Profiles of Learning for Undergraduate Success* have you developed the most as a student: the Communicator, the Problem Solver, the Innovator, or, the Community Contributor?
- How and why have you developed this profile?

Your initial post should be between 150-300 words. Your post is due the first Wednesday of the semester**.

Part 2 – Feedback / reflection post. *Read your fellow students' posts. Based on their posts, which of the other profiles (besides the one you chose) do you want to develop the most? Why? Your feedback post is due the first Friday of the semester**.*

* Please read the descriptions of the four IUPUI+ profiles on the IUPUI website:

<https://academicaffairs.iupui.edu/Strategic-Initiatives/IUPUI-Plus>

** Assuming the semester starts on a Monday.

In Canvas, I set the discussion options as follows:

- Allow threaded replies - NO
- Users must post before seeing replies - YES
- Enable podcast feed - NO
- Graded - YES
- Allow liking - NO
- Group Discussion - NO
- Require Peer Reviews – NO

Outcomes

I have been very pleased with student responses to the discussion prompts. I know that students have gained an understanding of the IUPUI+ Profiles by reading their posts. That is, they discuss their personal learning skills and dispositions with direct and accurate reference to the profiles. If excerpts from students' posts are appropriate, I would be glad to provide them as evidence.

Here is a chart that shows how students in two TESH-T 208 classes have identified themselves in terms of the profiles:

Profile that fits me best now: (below)	In the future, I wish to become a better:			
	Communicator	Problem Solver	Innovator	Community contributor
Communicator	-	10	3	0
Problem Solver	14	-	5	0
Innovator	5	1	-	0
Community contributor	0	3	0	-

What this means is that 10 Communicators want to be better Problem Solvers and 3 Communicators want to be better Innovators. The biggest single category, however, are Problem Solvers who want to be better Communicators (14 students). The chart invites hypothesizing and I share it with the students as an Announcement in Canvas. For example, my hypothesis is that K-12 and college have emphasized individual work, much of which involves solving problems. As students gain work experience, their experience at their jobs makes them appreciate communication skills. So, I think it shows pragmatic wisdom on the part of the Problem Solvers to seek to improve their communication skills. I use this opportunity to encourage students to take communication and writing courses.

The small number of students who see themselves as current Community Contributors and absence of students who prioritize becoming better Community Contributors is a concern. These data suggest that we need to emphasize community engagement in our classes and stress the importance of service learning and field experiences.