Step 1. Brainstorming Guidelines for Good Practice: Think about the questions below and your experience managing on-line discussions. Then write up and post some of your tips or guidelines (at least 3-5) for managing on-line discussion:

- How do you stimulate good discussion at the beginning of a course? How do you change your approach as the course develops?

- How do you help students to make their discussions (their posts AND their responses) meaningful and substantial? How do you keep the discussion focused? How do you help students develop habits of appropriate and meaningful response? What techniques have you found to be effective?

- What do you do in terms of responding to student postings? Do you respond often? Rarely? Not at all? What kinds of responses do you find to be most helpful to students? To encouraging broader discussion?

- How does on-line discussion conducted in a lab, during class, compare to discussion conducted as a part of homework? What do you have to do differently to make it work?

- How does your approach to on-line discussion evolve over the course of a semester? How do students’ needs and interests change? How do you evolve your assignments?

- Is access to computers an issue for your students? Have they been able to log on at times and places convenient for them? Are any of your students physically disabled and in need of adaptive computer technology? Has access in any of these ways been a problem? If so, how do you deal with it?

Step 2. Reading and Taking Notes: After you’ve written your initial posting, spend some time reading and learning from others’ posts. Pick 1-2 guidelines (that someone else posted) that you really like, and be prepared to talk about it with the group as a whole. (Don’t respond on-line – we’ll do our discussion face to face.)
Step 3. Small Group Discussion
Please share an assignment you use, have used, or are thinking of using on your discussion board. What worked well? What turned out to be a problem? Why? Considering the issues and guidelines discussed earlier today, how might you strengthen or revise this assignment?
3. Possible Groups:
   Group 1 - Liz, Mary Beth, Denise, Jim
   Group 2 - Lenore, Ana, Yvonne, John, Marcia
   Group 3 - Edna, Bill, Nurper, Nya, Carol
   Group 4 - Katie, Hendrick, Vanessa, Kenneth, Jackie

Thanks,
Ros