



# Using WebCT Vista Discussions to Generate Student-Faculty Collaborative Publications

---

Sunil Hazari, Ed.D  
Associate Professor  
Richards College of Business  
University of West Georgia

[shazari@westga.edu](mailto:shazari@westga.edu)  
<http://www.sunilhazari.com/education>

# Agenda

---

- Background
- Publications with UWG students
- Online course components
  - Discussion forum
- Online Discussion Rubric
- Building a research document
- Steps to publication
- Q&A

# Background: Course Load

---

## ○ Fall Semester

ABED6120: Administrative Support Systems

ABED4118: Web Page Design

## ○ Spring Semester

ABED6106: Evaluation and Testing in Business Ed.

ABED6146: Leadership & Supervision in Business Ed.

## ○ Summer Semester

ABED6183: Introduction to Research in Business Ed.

ABED6128: Instructional Strategies for Basic Business

# Publications as a result of courses

---

- Hazari, S. I. (2004). Applying instructional design theories to improve efficacy of technology-assisted presentations, *Journal of Instruction Delivery Systems*, 18(2), 24-33. **[ABED6128]**
- Hazari, S. I. (2005). Strategy for assessment of online course discussions, *Journal of Information Systems Education*, 15(4), 349-355. **[ALL]**
- Hazari, S. I., & **Johnson, B.** (2007). Perceptions of business students' feature requirements in Educational websites, *Decision Sciences Journal of Innovative Education*, 5(2), 545-557. **[ABED6128]**
- **Caverly, K.** & Hazari, S. I. (2008). Student and Faculty Satisfaction with Enterprise Course Management System. In T. Kidd & H. Song (Eds.), *Handbook of research on instructional systems and technology* (pp. 547-559). PA: IGI Global. **[ABED6183]**
- **Hawkins, C.** & Hazari, S. I. (under review). An analysis of leadership development through athletic participation. **[ABED6146]**

# Online Course Components

---

- Text
- Hypertext
- Resource links
- E-mail Links
- Lecture Notes
- Slides
- Interactive Programs
- Assessment
- Multimedia
- Conferencing
- Database
- **Discussions**

# WebCT course

WebCT - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites Print View Source Settings

Address <https://o.view.usg.edu/webct/cobaltMainFrame.dowebct> Go

**WebCT Vista at UWG** [Help](#)

**Build** **Teach** **Student View** **Administrative Support Systems - Fall 2007 ABED-6120-01D**

[Home](#)  [Announcements](#) [Discussions](#) [Mail](#) [My Grades](#)

You are currently on: **Home Page**

**ABED6120**  
**Administrative Support Systems**  
**(Instructor: S. Hazari)**

[Course Documents](#)  
Syllabus, Project Documents etc.

[Weekly Documents](#)  
Readings, Assignments etc.

[Galileo \(Library\)](#)

[Chat Room](#)

# Discussion forum

---

- Participation depends on background, skills, and life experiences
- Lurking behavior
- Dominated by opinion messages
- **Lack of research-based posts**

# Discussion Rubric

---

- Time based
- Report on research
- Original thought
- Evidence of Leadership
- Holistic scoring

\*\*\*\*\* See Handout \*\*\*\*\*



# Case Studies

---

- Pioneered by the Harvard Business School
- Theoretical knowledge tested with “real life” situation
- Higher retention of learning
- Encourages collaborative work
- Explores different perspective and “out of the box” thinking
- No one “right” answer. Instructor serves as a guide
- Generates new ideas not found in books which can be used in research articles

# Case Study Example [ABED 6120]

## Assignment:

Note: This assignment is slightly different from what we have been doing in previous weeks. You will find current information for this assignment on websites, not journals. So it is okay to use websites as references to support your recommendations.

I) You have just been employed as an Administrative manager in a new company that is a small business with 15 employees. The company supplies machine parts to engineering companies and consists of small engineering, sales, and marketing departments. There is no accounting and human resources department because these functions are handled by the founder himself. The payroll is currently outsourced to another company and there is no current benefit plan for employees.

To remain competitive and retain employees, the founder of the company is interested in setting up a 401K/IRA type retirement plan and has tasked you with researching these plans that he can offer to all employees in the company.

Provide the following answers:

In your proposal to the founder of the company....

Which plan(s) would you offer to employees? Why did you select the plan(s)? Will you offer a company match? What were some other plan(s) that you considered but rejected? How will this plan benefit the employer and the employee? Finally, which company will you choose to administer this plan?

(Note: No copying/pasting information directly from websites. Provide a concise description of the plans in your own words, and analysis to support your views. Do cite proper references. Do not concern yourself with other benefits such as Medical, Dental etc. )

# WebCT Discussions

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window with the following details:

- Browser Title:** WebCT - Microsoft Internet Explorer
- Address Bar:** <https://o.view.usg.edu/webct/cobaltMainFrame.dowebct>
- Page Header:** WebCT Vista at UWG (University of West Georgia) with a paw print logo and a [Help](#) link.
- Navigation Tabs:** Build, Teach, Student View (selected).
- Course Information:** Administrative Support Systems - Fall 2007 ABED-6120-01D
- Navigation Links:** [Announcements](#), [Discussions](#), [Mail](#), [My Grades](#)
- Current Page:** You are currently on: Home Page
- Main Content Area:**
  - ABED6120 Administrative Support Systems (Instructor: S. Hazari)**
  - Course Documents:** Syllabus, Project Documents etc. (represented by a folder icon)
  - Weekly Documents:** Readings, Assignments etc. (represented by a document icon)
  - Galileo (Library):** password=grew (represented by a globe icon)
  - Chat Room:** (represented by a folder icon)

# Student Feedback

---

From: Janet Gubbins [mailto:jgubbins@westga.edu]  
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2007 5:35 PM  
To: Sunil Hazari  
Subject: compliment from a student

Hi Dr Hazari,

A student by the name of Beth called to get help with the chat room. She happened to mention that she's a returning student ... she's loving college... and especially loving the discussion component in your online class. She "loves to write" and is thankful that you've given her the opportunity to do what she loves :-)

Have a nice day!

Janet

--

Distance Education Specialist,  
WebCT Admin & Certified Senior Trainer

# Research Paper

---

1. Introduction
2. Review of Literature
3. Methodology
4. Data Analysis
5. Summary, Conclusions, Recommendations
6. (Appendix – Narrative)

# Next Steps..

---

- Review Discussions/Research Paper
- Select student(s) and send invitation
- Get Approval (in writing!)
- Identify journal
- Re-purpose paper for journal (edit)
- Send query letter
- Submit article to editor
- Wait, hope, pray....

# Benefits to student

---

- Gets students involved with research
- Encourages writing
- Peer review
- Boosts self-confidence
- Builds collaborative teamwork
- Mastery of technology (e.g. wiki)
- Use of similar techniques in their own professional practice

# Benefits to faculty

---

- Encourages student-faculty research collaboration – beyond the classroom
- Motivates students
- Division of labor (time, effort)
- Identifies new research streams
- Promotion & Tenure



# Q&A

---

