

## Canvas Feature: Discussion Summary

Discussion Summary is an AI tool embedded within discussions that may be used by faculty to help them identify themes from student posts.

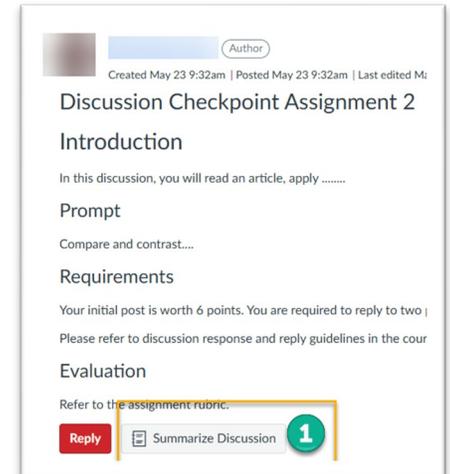
**Note:** Each Canvas user (faculty) is limited to twenty-five (25) uses per day.

**Note:** Students do not see Discussion Summary and cannot use Discussion Summary. Discussion Summary is a faculty-only tool.

### Where do you find Discussion Summary?

Discussion Summary can be found within each discussion assignment after it has been created.

The “Summarize Discussion” button [1] will appear next to the “Reply” button.



### How do I use Summary Discussion?

Once all discussion replies have been posted by students, click on the “Summarize Discussion” button.

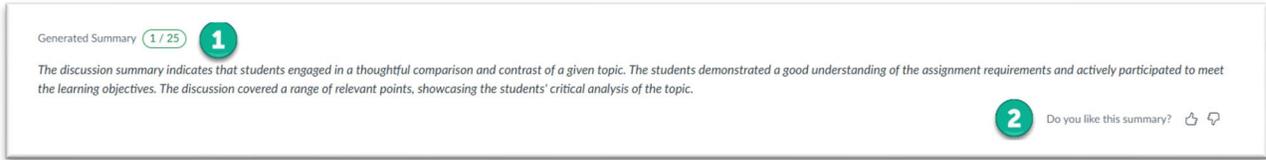
1. Discussion Summary [1] appears.
2. Note the disclaimer [2]: “This summary is generated by AI and reflects the latest contributions to the discussion. *Please note that the output may not always be accurate.* Summaries are only visible to instructors.”
  - a. **As noted, the summary provided may not be accurate. Faculty must read and review student responses. Discussion Summary is merely a tool to assist faculty.**
3. A textbox called “Topics to focus on (optional)” appears [3]. Faculty can use this text box to enter a prompt to assist the AI in generating the summary, but it is optional. Entering a prompt will assist the AI in generating the themes you want to review.
4. Faculty can also eschew using a prompt and click on the “Generate Summary” button [4]. A summary will be generated.



### Generating a Summary

In this example, a prompt has not been added. Instead, “Generate Summary” has been used without a prompt.

The example student posts used to generate the AI summary were incomplete. Starter statements were used for example purposes only. Note the “Generated Summary.” [1]



The generated summary states, *“The discussion summary indicates that students engaged in a thoughtful comparison and contrast of a given topic. The students demonstrated a good understanding of the alignment requirements and actively participated in the learning objectives. The discussion covered a range of relevant points, showcasing the students’ critical analysis of the topic.”*

**This generated summary is inaccurate. Recall, only initial sentence starters were used for this example. Use this tool with care and caution to assist you. Faculty expertise, analysis, and judgement are always needed when reviewing student discussion replies.**

In this instance, faculty would click the thumbs down next to “Do you like this summary?” [2]

Use follow-up prompts judiciously. Recall, users are limited to 25 uses of Discussion Summer per day.

**Recommendation:** Given the usage limitation per day, it is advised that faculty use a more specific prompt to guide the AI before clicking the “Generate Summary” button if they are searching for specific themes from student replies.