Harmonize | A Product Review

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I had the opportunity to review the Harmonize discussion forum system over the Spring and Summer semesters of 2020. I used the system in two of my classes: Writing for Media and Media Ethics and Law.

I have taught and taken many classes online over the last 10 years. Consequently, I am familiar with several discussion forum systems including the standard systems for Canvas, Blackboard and Sakai. I found the Harmonize discussion forum system to be superior to all three.

Harmonize's strengths lies in its ease of use for both instructor and student. It is far easier to grade using the Harmonize system because of the thoughtful way posts are displayed and tallied. Harmonize also alerts professors when a question is directed at them, which is a great feature that would be particularly helpful in a large course. Even in a small course, I felt I saved considerable time over grading forums in Canvas, which doesn't offer a tally – or at least not one I've been able to spot while grading!

Moreover, my undergraduate students had less trouble posting videos to the Harmonize discussion forums. There were fewer requests for assistance with Harmonize than with Canvas. This, too, saved me time as an instructor because I didn't have to field any such questions about the system. In the past, I've sometimes had to post videos on behalf of

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students who just couldn't quite figure it out. I had no such requests when I used Harmonize and I provided no additional instruction.

Finally, I know from my own experience as an online student at Purdue University that Harmonize is heads and tails above Blackboard's standard discussion forum. There's really no comparison between Blackboard and Harmonize when it comes to uploading multimedia.

Harmonize wins, hands down. Even formatting text is more straightforward in Harmonize than in Blackboard.

HARMONIZE SCORECARD | Rachel Kremen

OVERALL ★★★★☆

EASE OF USE ★★★★★

MODERN & INTUITIVE INTERFACE ★★★★★

FUNCTIONALITY/ SUPPORT ★★★★☆

Harmonize

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