

Real-world comparison: Discussion Boards

Opening stage shows five people at a party, gathered around a fireplace, bonfire, or dining room table with party foods — could even be a wedding reception. Someplace where friendly strangers congregate.

Text: *You're at a party, standing in front of the fireplace to warm up. Several other people are nearby.*

Text fades. Four people fade from the stage and a caption appears near the remaining person:

"Did anyone watch the game last night?"

A second caption appears in red: "This is comparable to an original post in a discussion forum"

A second person from the stage fades in with a caption:

"Yes! That 100-yard punt was amazing!"

An additional caption appears in red: "This is comparable to a reply to an original post in a discussion board"

A third person from the stage fades in with a caption:

"That guy should be the MVP!"

An additional caption appears in red: "The three comments are comparable to a thread in a discussion board"

A fourth person from the stage fades in with a caption:

"Did anyone go to the concert last night?"

An additional caption appears in red: "This person has started a new conversation, or topic, which is comparable to an original post in a discussion board. This new topic will begin a new thread"

The final person from the stage fades in with a caption:

"I went to the concert, it was fantastic!"

An additional caption appears in red: "This is comparable to a reply to an original post to a specific thread, or topic, in a discussion board"

Caption fades, and a new caption appears. In red, discussion board best practices are bulleted.

Real-world comparison: Blogs

Opening stage shows a man in the front of a room, standing behind a podium and next to a whiteboard.

Text: *You've chosen to attend a presentation on canine behavior, given by a renowned veterinarian and research scientist named Dr. Sy Intest. Dr. Intest has chosen to talk about his newest discovery, which concerns a particular chemical used in dog food and how it affects the Great Pyrenees dog population in Bali. He speaks for ten minutes and emphasizes his main points by drawing on the whiteboard.*

The text fades and new text appears in red: "Dr. Intest's talk is comparable to a blog entry. He's chosen a topic; he's been the only participant at this point; and other participants are listening, as a group. The topic of this blog entry would be "Dog Food and the Great Pyrenees in Bali". Dr. Intest can add photos and drawings within his blog entry to emphasize his main points."

The text fades. The stage shows a woman in the audience raising her hand.

Text: *Dr. Debbie Doubtful has a question for Dr. Sy Intest.*

The text fades; a caption appears: "*Dr. Intest, isn't the population of Great Pyrenees in Bali rather small? How are your findings significant to the global population of Great Pyrenees dogs?*"

Another caption appears in red: "This is comparable to posting a comment to a blog entry"

The stage returns to Dr. Intest, and text appears: "*Dr. Intest explains his findings to Dr. Doubtful, who is satisfied with the answer and sits back to listen to more of the presentation.*" The text fades.

Text: *But Dr. Doubtful's question has prompted Dr. Intest to comment on research he'd completed on cats in Himalysia. He discusses those discoveries for a few minutes.*

A caption appears in red: "Dr. Intest has created a new blog entry by introducing a new topic." The caption fades.

Dr. Intest returns to and finishes his original presentation, and asks for questions or comments. Several people respond, to both the Great Pyrenees topic and to the Himalysian cat topic.

A caption appears in red: "Comments are posted to an appropriate blog entry. Blogs can be organized by topic, such as "dogs", or "cats"; they can be organized by time, such as "2010" and "2011"; or organized by category, such as "research" and "vacations". Or, Dr. Intest can have several blogs, each serving a different purpose".

The caption fades, and a new caption appears. In red, blogging best practices are bulleted.

Real-world comparison: Wikis

Opening stage shows a screen split into three distinct graphics, on a background of a USA map. Each graphic shows a different person in a different room, in front of a computer.

Text: Three friends are writing about a recent camping trip they took together. Adam lives in Maine, Bob lives in Florida, and Chris lives in Iowa. They've decided to create a Wiki to document their adventures.

Adam starts the Wiki:

We just got back from an awesome trip to Yosemite. We camped out for a week.

Bob adds to the Wiki:

We had a lot of rain but the tent held up and we were still able to hike El Capitan.

Chris adds to the Wiki:

A grizzly bear came to our camp and ate our garbage!

Adam edits the Wiki:

An American black bear came to our camp and ate our garbage!

This is how the Wiki looks:

We just got back from an awesome trip to Yosemite. We camped out for a week. We had a lot of rain but the tent held up and we were still able to hike El Capitan. An American black bear came to our camp and ate our garbage!