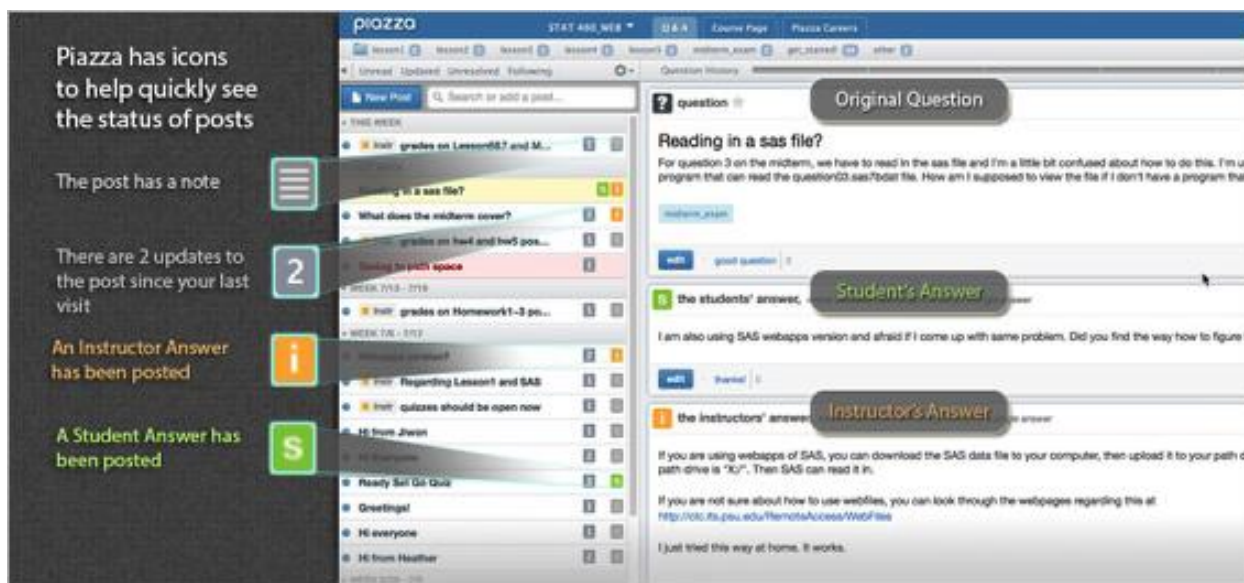


Piazza forum instructions for students

Create a Piazza account

Use www.piazza.com/purdue/fall2020/ma16200 to create an account on Piazza. Under academic information you can enter the correct information or tick the box “I’m not pursuing a degree.” You will be offered the chance to “Join the Piazza Network of students and employers”. The Piazza Network is a way for Piazza to keep their forums free by connecting forum users (TAs, professors and students) with possible employers. You do not need to join the Piazza Network to use the forums.

Overview



Piazza is an online question-and-answer platform that has the functionality of a discussion forum and the version history control and collaborative feeling of a wiki. Piazza helps students ask and answer their own questions, under the guidance of their TAs (moderators).

How-to

1. Create a question

Click “New Post” button in upper left. For “Post Type” choose “Question”—this means your post will require an answer. For “Post to” choose “Entire Class”—this means all users (students, TAs and professors) will see the question. For “Select Folder(s)” choose “hw23” if you have a question about a homework problem in homework assignment 23—you may have to scroll to display the folder you want. For “Summary” enter a title for your question. If you have a question about problem 8 in assignment 23 you must start the summary with “hw23.8”. In the “Details” editor enter your question. You can post anonymously if you wish. Click the “Post My Question to ...” button. Note that you can “Save Draft,” “Cancel,” or Preview Post here too. Your question now appears in the feed in the left panel—when

creating the question one could also choose to pose the question to specific individual users (students or moderators) too. Once you are done move onto item 2.

2. Answer a question

Students are encouraged to answer each other's questions. Click on the question you want to answer. Answer the question in "the students' answer" textbox next to the green s-icon. Click "submit" once you are finished. Now the question appears in the feed with the s-icon—this means a student has answered it. Any student can edit another student's answer. Instructors can answer questions, edit existing student answers and designate an existing student answer as "good answer". If an instructor answers a question a yellow i-icon appears on the question in the feed. Similar to a Wiki, the forum keeps track of all changes to any post, and there is a slider for the question history that lets you browse among the versions. Students can't edit an instructor's answer.

3. Start a followup discussion

It is possible for students and moderators to have followup discussions as well. For example, does the answer generalize to other situations or are there alternative methods or explanations? Click on the question you want to discuss. In the "followup" discussion box enter your comment to start a followup discussion. Click Post. Followup discussions by default are given an "unresolved" status in the feed highlighted in red. Students and moderators can change the status to "resolved" when appropriate.

Final comments:

When using the forum, be polite, respectful and follow the guidelines about posting. Search the forum or look at the feed before posting a question. (Duplicate questions will be marked duplicate and will not be answered.) Use the correct format when posting. For example, add the tag hw23.8 in the summary of a question from assignment 23, problem 8. If you have a question about a specific lecture or quiz, use the appropriate lecture or quiz folder. If a moderator (TA or professor) thinks you've behaved in a problematic way, you can be banned from the forum for 1 day or more. Please treat others as you would like to be treated.