"Netiquette" (Internet etiquette) is a set of expectations that describe appropriate behaviors when interacting online.

When you are communicating in an online environment you are subject to the same rules of courtesy and conduct that you would find in any face-to-face environment. Treat your fellow students with respect. If you disagree with someone’s post, you should aim to acknowledge your disagreement in a mature and respectful way, without belittling the writer, and ending the response with a question to open up further discussion. Be clear with your words. It’s easy for someone to misinterpret your meaning. They can’t see your expressions or hear the tone of your voice. Be careful when using sarcasm and humor. Without face to face communications your comments may be misinterpreted.

Proofread and check the spelling before submitting a post in the Discussion Board or sending an email. While online communication is more relaxed, it is not careless communication. Doing a quick proof of your work before you send it may alleviate the need to clarify your posting and save you some time and potential embarrassment. Be aware of copyright and “fair use” law; do not plagiarize, and don’t forget to cite your information.