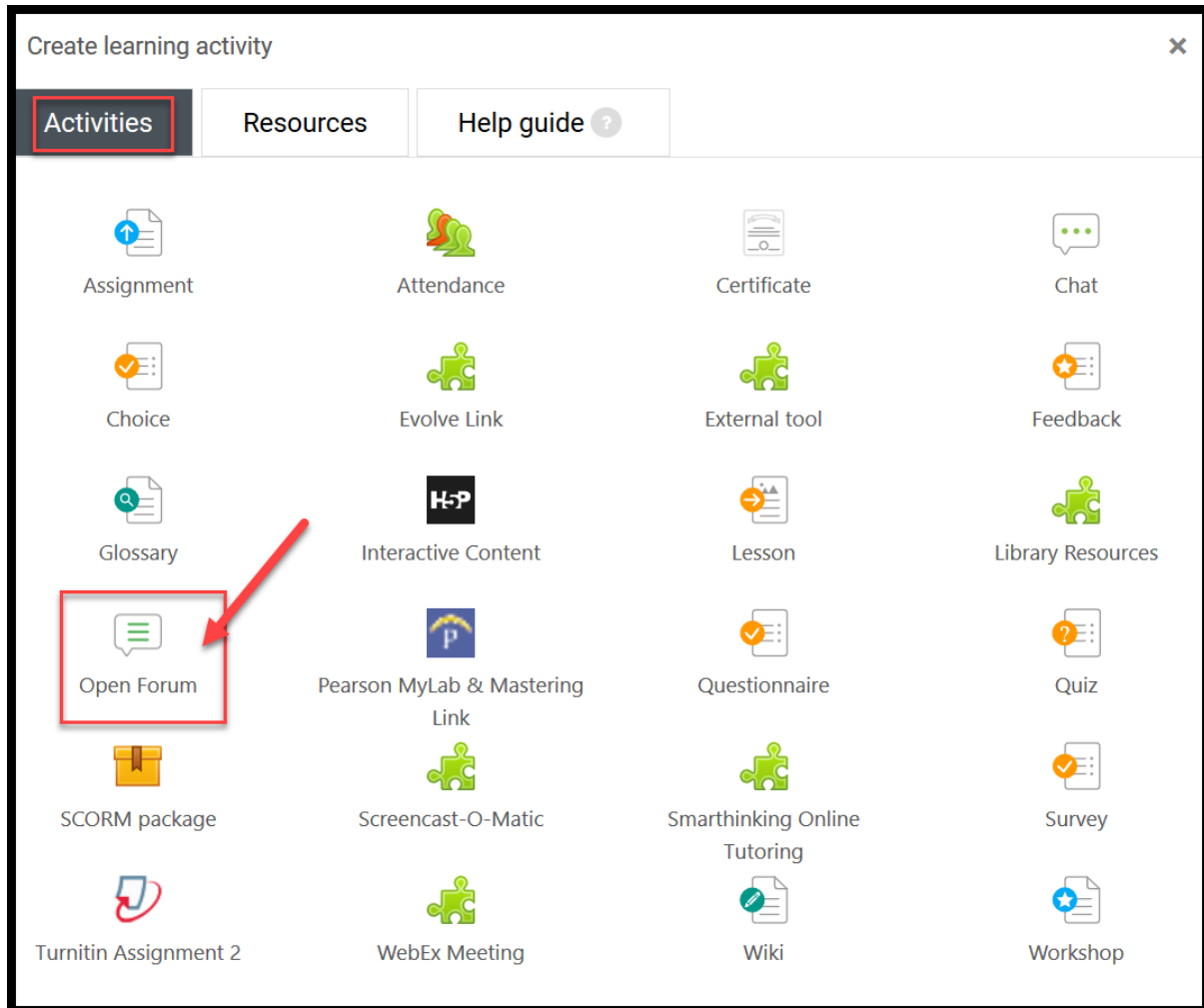
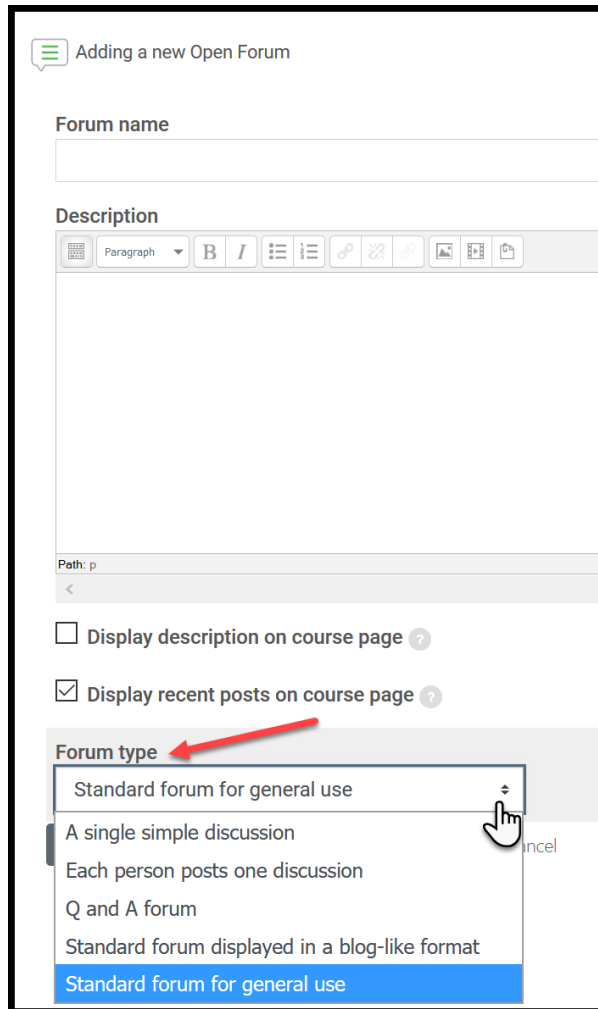


## Discussion Forum Types

A discussion forum can be created in Moodle if **“Open Forum”** is selected under the **“Activities”** tab when creating a learning activity:



On the forum set-up page, there are different forum types that instructors can choose to fit the design of the discussion:



There are several forum types:

**A single simple discussion** - A single discussion topic where everyone can reply.

**Each person posts one discussion** - Each student can post exactly one new discussion topic, where everyone can reply.

**Q and A forum** - Students must first post their perspectives before they can view other students' posts.

**Standard forum displayed in a blog-like format** - An open forum where anyone can start a new discussion at any time, where the discussion topics are displayed on one page with Discuss this topic links.

**Standard forum for general use** - An open forum where anyone can start a new discussion at any time.

## Post Editing Time Limit

Once a post has been made, students can go back and edit it within set time limit. This is usually **30 minutes**. *Note that teachers can always edit their posts.*

### A single simple discussion

- Instructor posts one topic – directs discussion under one forum that the instructor begins.
- One single thread.
- Students are not able to start a new topic.
- Students can reply to the initial post or make follow-up replies to other students.
- Good for a focused discussion because it helps to stay on topic.
- When the course is re-set, the original discussion question does not get removed.

### Each person posts one discussion

- Each student starts a discussion, but they can only begin one.
- Allows the instructor to initiate a thought by posting an article, video, etc. and have each student develop a discussion topic.
- Minimal amount of threads may be easier to manage.

### Q and A forum

- Students will not see other responses until they post their own response.
- Eliminates copying of ideas.
- **Instructors must first post a question to the forum and students will then be able to see a link to post / reply to the forum.** Students do not have the ability to add initial question posts to Q&A forums.

**Note:** Since students have 30 minutes to edit their post, they won't be able to see other responses until after 30 minutes.

The first screenshot shows the 'Initial view of Q&A forum'. It displays a table with columns: Discussion, Started by, Replies, and Last post. The table contains one entry: 'Combining the Games' started by 'Mary Cooch' with 1 reply, last posted by 'David Beckham' on 'Thu, 13 Sep 2012, 10:05 PM'. Below the table is a text input field and a 'Post' button.

The second screenshot shows the state where 'Students cannot see posts until they post'. It displays a message: 'This post cannot be viewed by you, probably because you have not posted in the discussion or the maximum editing time hasn't passed yet.' Below the message is a text input field and a 'Post' button.

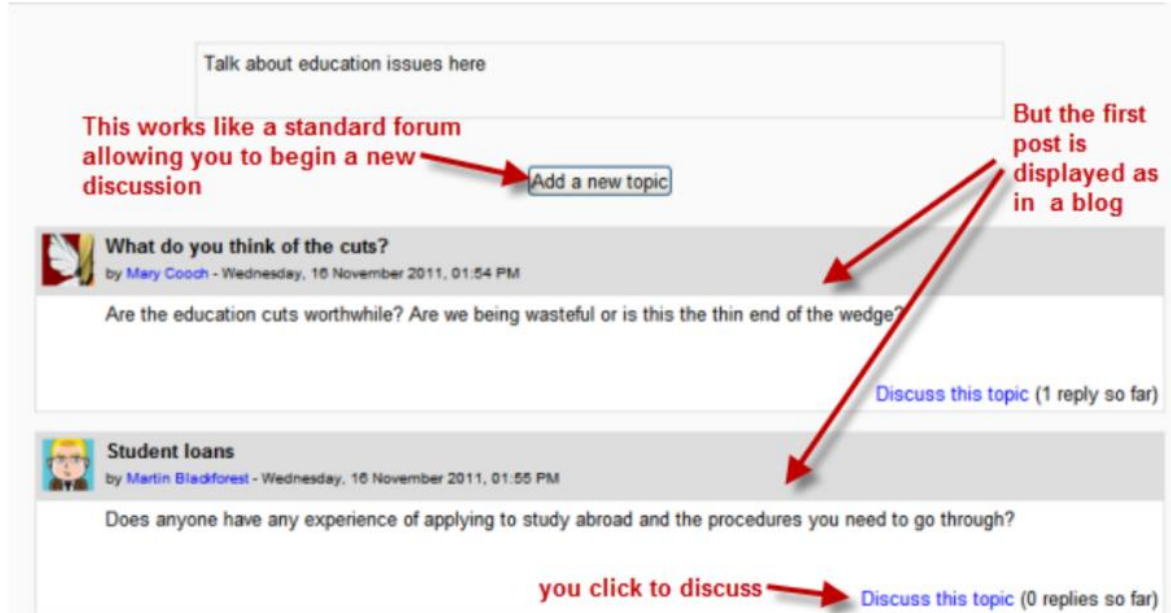
The third screenshot shows the state where 'Other posts visible when editing time is over'. It displays a thread titled 'Combining the Games' by 'Mary Cooch' on 'Thursday, 13 September 2012, 9:58 PM'. The thread content is: 'Do you think the Olympics and Paralympics should be combined? If yes, why, and if no, why not?'. Below the thread content is a reply by 'David Beckham' on 'Thursday, 13 September 2012, 10:05 PM' with the text: 'I think in an ideal world they should be combined but in reality I think it would cause a lot of organisational problems and create so many more categories the games would be come unmanageable.' Below the reply is another reply by 'Bradley Wiggins' on 'Thursday, 13 September 2012, 10:07 PM' with the text: 'Absolutely! Yes! Bring it on!'. Below the replies is a text input field and a 'Post' button.

## Standard forum for general use

- Instructors can set up any number of topics.
- Students can post a new topic.
- Multiple threads going on simultaneously.

## Standard forum displayed in a blog-like format

- It works like the standard forum for general use, but the first post of each discussion is displayed (as in a blog) so that users can read it and then choose to respond by clicking the "Discuss this topic" button bottom right of the post.



Blog like forum

