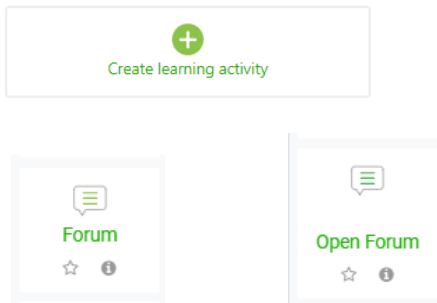# Pros and Cons of the two types of Discussion Forum Activities
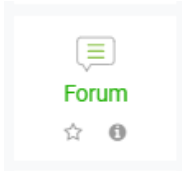
There are two types of forum activities available: Forum   and   Open Forum

Note: Most instructors use the Open Forum type, although the Forum type might work better for your needs.

Either type is available from the "Create learning activities" button at the bottom of each section of the course.
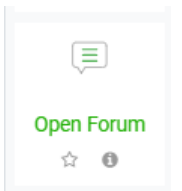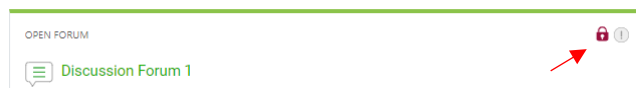

Pros and Cons of both types:

Pros:
Prevent students from posting after your due date with the Availability option.
Easy to cause due dates to appear in the Deadlines area or in the Upcoming Events block.
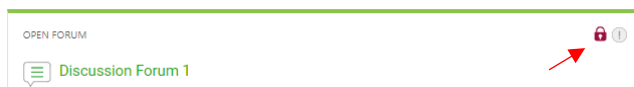
Con:
Can't grade from Open Grader, so it is a more awkward way to grade.
Have to also set a Restrict access for students to see how long forum is open beside the forum link.
Students click the padlock to see this.

Pros:
Can grade this type from Open Grader.
Easy to cause due dates to appear in the Deadlines area or in the Upcoming Events block and beside the link to the Open Forum.
Prevent students from posting after your due date with the Restrict access option.
Doing this automatically causes the padlock beside the assignment link to appear. Students click the padlock to see how long the forum is open.

Con:
If you have a rubric included, it is more awkward to prevent students from posting after your due date.