

Piazza Guidelines

Welcome to 18-600, spring 2018! For this course we will be using Piazza (<http://piazza.com/cmu/spring2018/18600/home>) for all communication to students. Piazza is an online Q&A service that allows both students and instructors to post questions, surveys, notes, etc. Since these posts may be publicly (to all instructors & students) or privately (only to instructors) posted, it is important for us to define guidelines for what is appropriate in each of these types of posts.

Public Posts

Public posts are viewable by all students and instructors in the course. By design, public posts allow students to answer each-other's questions and add comments. For these types of posts the following questions/notes are appropriate:

- Questions regarding course content, i.e. anything discussed in lecture, recitation, the textbook, etc.
- Questions regarding general course or lab information, i.e. clarifying the wording on lab handouts
- Questions about general development environment topics such as AFS, linux, etc.
- Discussion relating to practice exam problems and other exam prep

We encourage students to answer these questions for one another. As a general rule of thumb, don't post anything public that gives away sensitive information regarding grades, the labs, or anything else that is personal or may give away answers. Particularly, **DO NOT POST ANY LAB CODE PUBLICLY.**

Private Posts

Private posts are viewable only by the instructors, and are designated for anything else that may not be appropriate or useful to post publicly. We do NOT recommend to make private posts visible to a subset of instructors as it will likely reduce the response time. For these types of posts the following questions/notes are appropriate:

- Questions regarding your solutions to lab questions, including code, questions on how to approach a problem, etc.
- Questions regarding your grades in the course
- Questions on your Autolab submissions
- Anything that falls into the grey area between the two categories

Posts will be answered by the instructors as soon as possible, usually within 24 hours. We encourage you to ask questions pertaining to the labs early on, as we tend to get lots of questions right before lab submission deadlines.