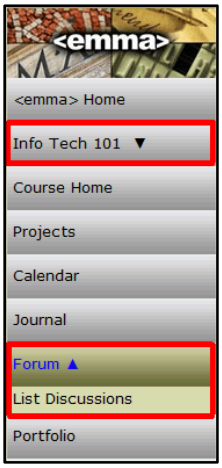
Emma for Students
Lesson 3: Forums and Journals

Internet Forums

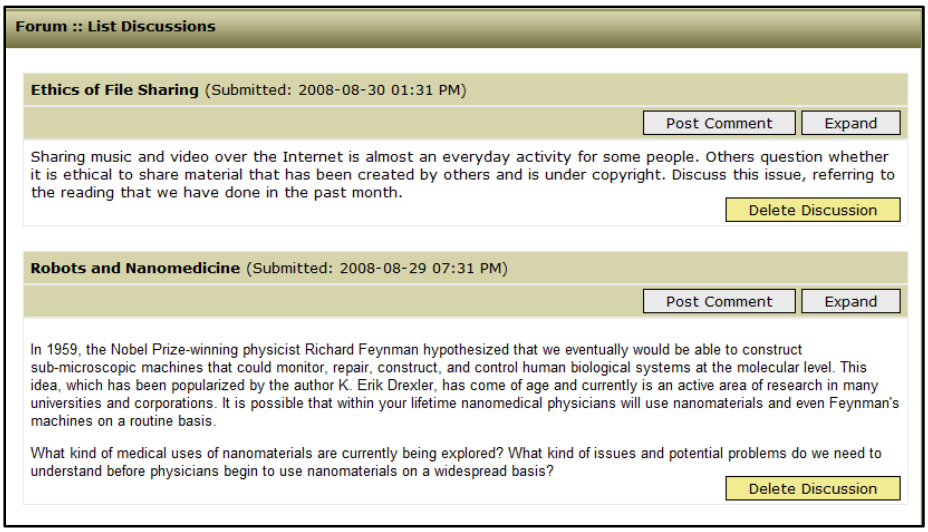
Internet forums are web-based applications for holding online discussions and posting user-generated content[1]. They are also commonly referred to as Web forums, message boards, discussion boards, (electronic) discussion groups, discussion forums, and bulletin boards. These forums have the advantage of being both asynchronous and non-localized, so that faculty and students can make contributions at any time and from any place with an Internet connection.

Entering a Forum

Go to your course in the list on the left side of <emma> and click on **Forums.** When you click on **List Discussions**, you should see a list of discussions.



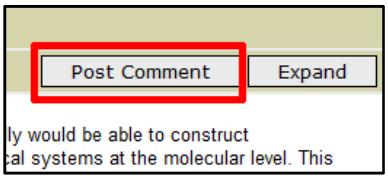
An example is shown below.



[1] "Internet Forums." Wikipedia. 5-May-2008. < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_forum>

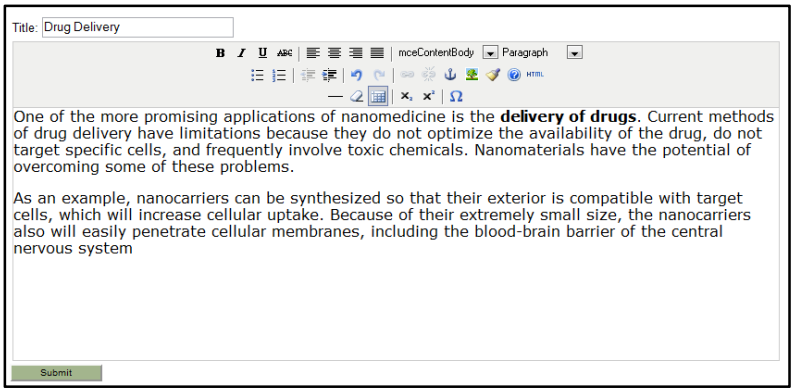
Posting a Comment

You can post a comment on a discussion's introductory text by clicking on the **Post Comment** button.



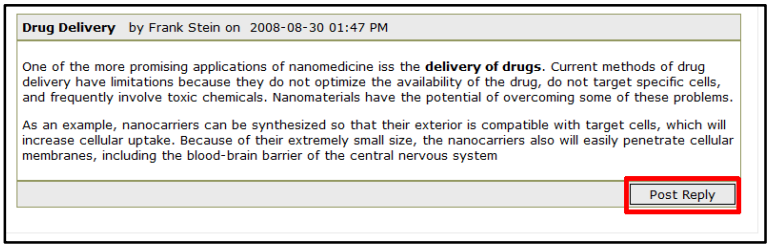
A text entry window appears, in which you can enter your comment (including a title).

Notice that it is possible to emphasize text in a bold, italics, or underlined font.



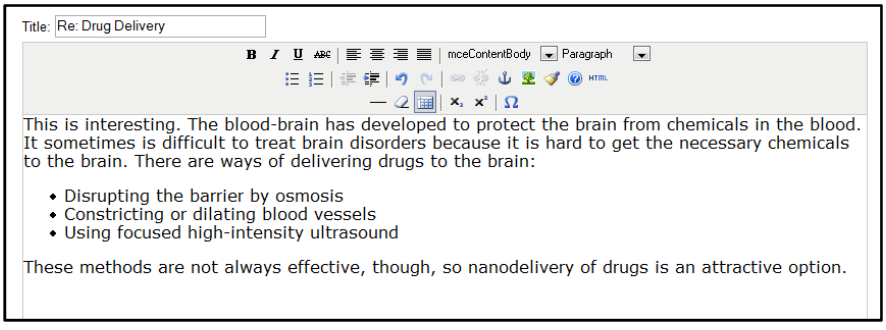
Reply to a Posting

If you want to reply to one of the posted comments, you can click on the **Post Reply** button.

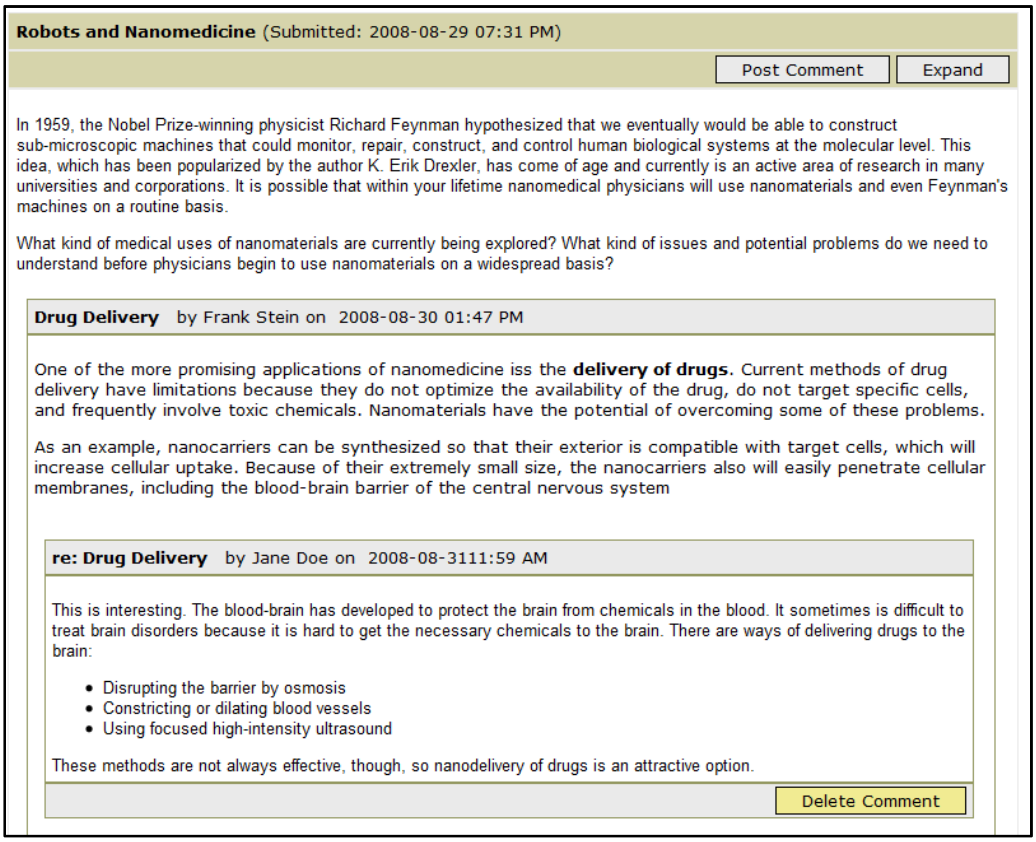


As usual, a text entry window will appear.

Click on **Submit** when ready.



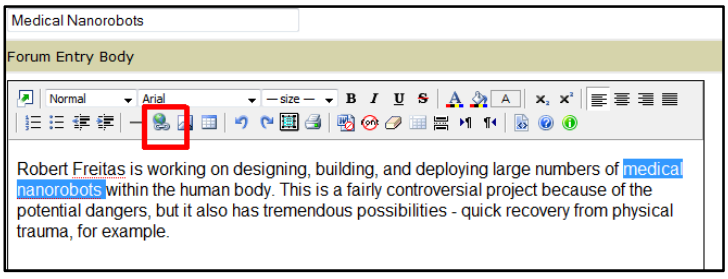
The reply will be posted within the comment it references.



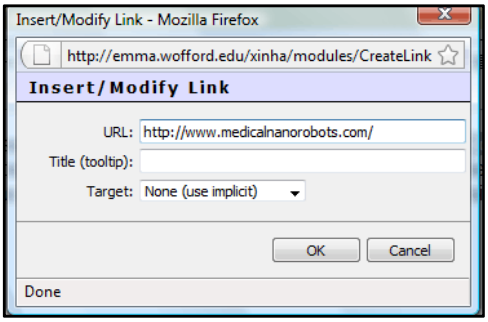
Adding a Hyperlink or a Picture

You may want to reference a web page by linking it from a forum posting. As an example, suppose that you have become interested in medical nanorobots and have found a good web site at http://www.medicalnanorobots.com/. You want to post a comment about this field and include a hyperlink to the web site you have found.

Post the comment shown at the right. Then **select** the phrase "medical nanorobots" and click on the **hyperlink icon.**



Paste the URL in the "Insert/Modify Link" window that appears.



Click on **OK.**

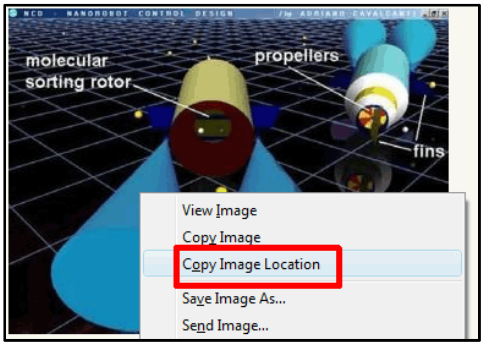
The phrase now is hyperlinked within the text.

Robert Freitas is working on designing, building, and deploying large numbers of medical nanorobots within the human body. This is a fairly controversial project because of the potential dangers, but it also has tremendous possibilities - quick recovery from physical trauma, for example.

You also have found some articles on the use of medical nanorobots to deliver drugs, including a conceptual picture of what a nanorobot might look like. The image you want to include is available on the web at the URL below:

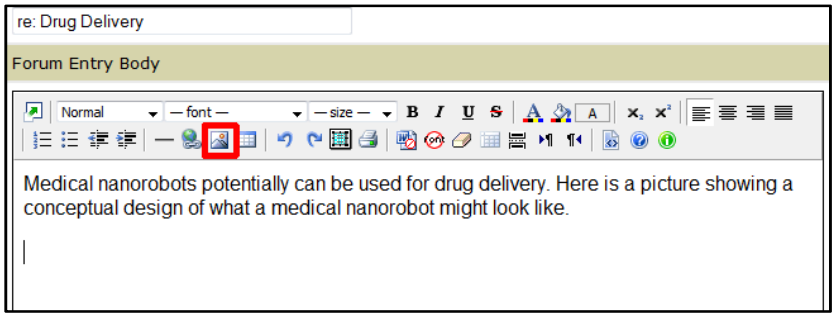
http://www.blogsforcompanies.com/TTimages/nanorobots_sensors.jpg

In Firefox, right-click on the image and select **Copy image location** from the menu. This copies the URL of the image so that you do not need to write it down.



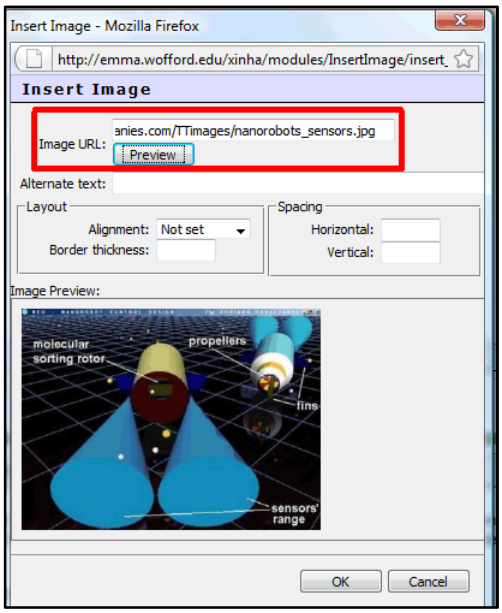
Post a comment in the Drug Delivery thread.

To include the picture in the comment, click on the **image icon**.

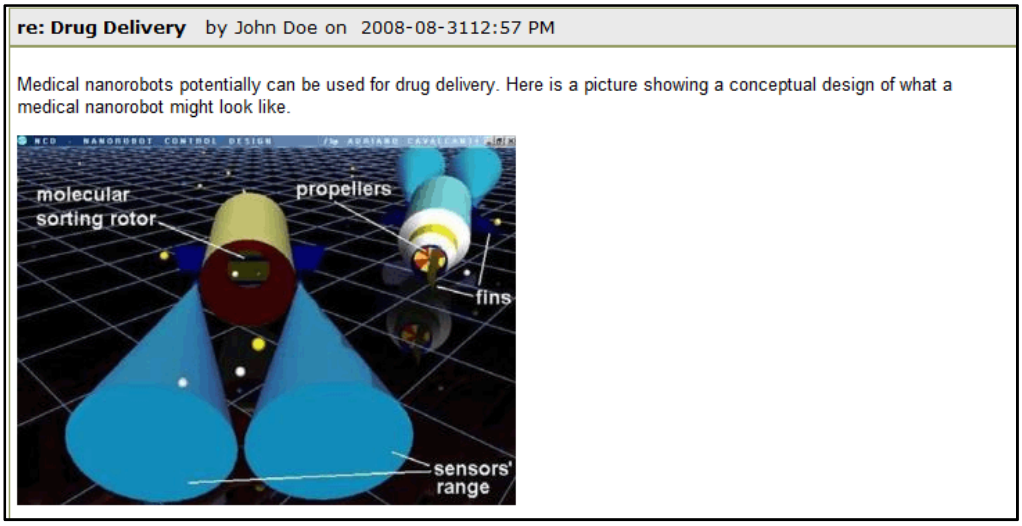


Paste the URL in the “Insert Image” window that appears. You can click on the **Preview** button to preview the image.

Click on **OK** when you are ready.



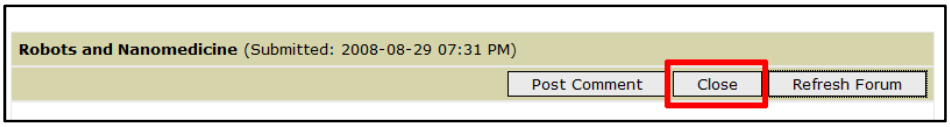
The comment should include the picture.



NOTE: I would not recommend using images stored on your own personal computer because I doubt that the <emma> server can find them.

Closing a Forum

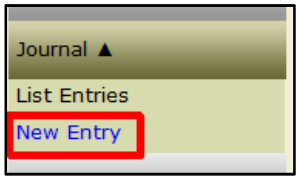
Click on **Close Forum** to collapse the display of the forum so that only the original question is shown.



Making a Journal Entry

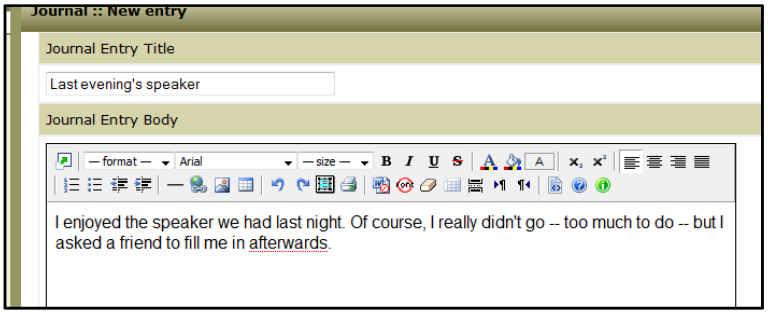
A journal is like a private blog in which the instructor is the only reader. It is a useful way for students to privately submit informal writing assignments to their instructor without review by their classmates – responses to a speaker, reviews of a film, etc.

To make a journal entry, you should click on **Journal** in the course menu and then click on **New Entry**.



You can make the entry in the workspace in the next window.

Click on **Submit** when the entry has been made.



The new entry will show up in the list. These entries will only be visible to you and your instructor(s).