

Hello Strategic Planning Team! Welcome to the exciting world of Strategic Thinking and Strategic Planning. I know for a lot of people, hearing those two words, “strategic” and “planning,” generate about as much joy as “root” and “canal” or “Joanie” and “Chachi” (Is this too young a group)? Hopefully we can make this course as fun and lively as possible.

Our primary goal in this course is to help you become a partner in the Strategic Planning process. Each week we will walk through a piece of the Strategic Planning puzzle until we feel comfortable enough to roll our sleeves up and start putting all the pieces together on November 10.

For this first module, here are some ideas we will introduce:

- What is **Strategic Thinking**?
- How can **Tech-Free** meetings help?
- Are there such things as **Innovation Killers**?
- Who is this group? **Introduce** yourselves!
- Finally, **reflect** on your first week in this course.

Here are a few logistical items to help situate us in the course:

Introduction Module:

Remember how we said we wanted to make this course fun? We think one of the best ways to do that is to get to know each other right off the bat. So your first assignment will be to go to the “Discussion Board” link in the left navigation panel and answer the questions that posted under the “Introduction: Welcome to Strategic Planning Section.”

Modules:

All course content is housed here and organized by week. The resources you'll need to participate in the discussion boards and complete the assignments are all in the related weekly module. Each week we will open a new Module for you. In each Module you will find information about the topic for the week, an article to read, perhaps a video to watch, and a Reflection to participate in. It's all there in the Module, so be sure to look them over each week.

Reflections/Discussion Boards:

A big part of this course is going to be writing your responses to the material we cover. We are going to use both Discussions and Reflections. Each week we will pose questions for you to consider and respond to. Some questions you will respond to on the **Discussion Board**. Other responses will require you to follow a **link** where you will also reflect and respond.

Participation in the Discussion Reflection process is mandatory, and your thoughtful reflections will help us make the Strategic Planning retreat a much better experience for everyone.

There are no right or wrong answers for any of the Discussion or Reflection responses. We are looking for you to engage with the material in a thoughtful way. This is a great venue for you to flesh out some topics that you are either confused by or intrigued by in that week's Module.

Don't be shy or worried about being honest in your responses. We are hoping for active, engaged conversations on the Discussion Board and thoughtful Reflections.

Navigating the site:

Spend some time tooling around the Canvas site to get familiar with where everything is.

“Course Announcements” is where we will make announcements about administrative things, items of interest, or notes you might find useful. You should check the Announcements each time you log in.

Any questions?

We would like to say we have an open-door policy, but because this is an online course, we don't have a door to leave open! Use the Questions link on the Discussion Board if you need help or send us an email through this Canvas page. We promise to respond.

To Recap:

Please click on Modules to get started, or head over to Discussions to jump in and introduce yourself! Enjoy!