



Best Practices: Course Links and URLs

Course links and URLs are two different ways to link to content in Blackboard 9.1. This handout provides some quick tips for using links and course links in your course.

 **Lesson One**




Tell Us About Yourself Discussion Board

Click on the link above to go directly to the Tell Us About Yourself Discussion. Introduce yourself to the group with the following information:

- Your name and where you're from
- Two interesting things about yourself
- The reason you're taking this class

After you've completed the discussion, click on Lessons > Lesson One to return to this lesson.

Tell Us About Yourself is a Course Link



Online Medical Dictionary

Click on the link above to look up terms in the online medical dictionary. This is an excellent resource to assist you during this lesson to help complete the Medical Glossary Assignment. This link will open in a new window or tab. To return to the course site, close the new window or tab.

Online Medical Dictionary is a URL

Course Links	URLs
Links one area of course to another area of course	Links to an external website
Uses course map functionality to select location	Opens in new window or within Bb content frame
Simplifies navigation for students	Easy access to web resources or materials
<p>Best Practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe course link (i.e. Where does it go?) • Describe the purpose of link (i.e. What to do when students get there?) • Direct students what do to after they visited the location. (i.e. How to return, or next steps?) • Most commonly used within the Lessons area to direct students to Discussion Boards or Resources button. 	<p>Best Practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the URL and purpose of URL (i.e. Where does it go? What to do when students get there? How to Navigate?) • Describe any attachments to URL • Identify whether link will open in a new window or within Bb content frame and how to return to course site • It is recommended to open most URLs in a new window to allow students to flip between course site and website. • Use lesson-specific URLs within a Lesson • Use general course URLs within Resources • Denote <i>optional</i> resources as <i>optional</i> • If deep-linking¹, always reference the author of the content for clarity of ownership

¹ Deep-linking is directing a URL to a specific page on a website, instead of that website's main or home page.