



Chat Room Netiquette

Unlike a private conversation with a single person via the Internet, the chat room means that many people will read your conversation. It's rather like talking loudly in a crowded restaurant.

One of the goals of chat room etiquette is to keep conversations short and to the point. Longer comments and questions are usually better directed in e-mails. Keep conversations on topic.

Rules to follow when entering a chat room:

- Introduce yourself to everyone in the chat room.
- State your question clearly. Be specific in what you are looking for, and provide all relevant details to your question.
- Be civil to others. This is important in any situation, but even more so in a chat room, because only text is seen, and you can not see facial expressions or hear tones of voice. Be friendly, and respect others in the room.
- Give the room a chance to answer you. Patience is a virtue.
- Do not spam or flood the room with repeated questions, statements, or links.
- Avoid using font colors other than black.
- Avoid typing in all caps. It is hard on the eyes to read and considered rude. It is the Internet equivalent to shouting. If you want to call attention to a particular word or phrase, do so in the same manner that you would in conversation.
- Do not use any inappropriate or suggestive language.
- Do not mention names of specific lenders or companies in the business.
- Do not discuss hiring practices or job offers you have received.
- Do not pose questions of a legal nature.
- Do not ask or pose questions about your personal situation; ask questions pertaining only to course material.
- Avoid disclosing or asking personal information.
- When you are ready to leave the chat room, chat room etiquette suggests that you say a general goodbye to the group, just as you might when leaving a party.