

# Groups & Group Discussions

A new feature has been added to OpenEdPractices.org allowing for Group areas and Group Discussions. Groups can be either public or private (meaning open to everyone, or open to only members of the group once they have logged into the site).

The Sakai Distance Learning group has set up the first Group, and it is open to the public, as are the discussions within the group. However, only members of the group will be able to a) add new discussion topics, b) comment on existing discussions c) subscribe to email notifications.

## Creating an [OpenEdPractices.org](http://openedpractices.org) Account

1. Go to <http://openedpractices.org>.
2. Select Register under the **Join Us!** menu in the right hand column.
3. Complete the **Create new account** form.
4. Click the **Create new account** button.
5. Follow the instructions sent to the email you entered for setting a password.
  - You can also upload a picture, set your notification preferences, and set your time zone at this time.
  - You can come back to this area at any time by selecting My Account to change these settings.

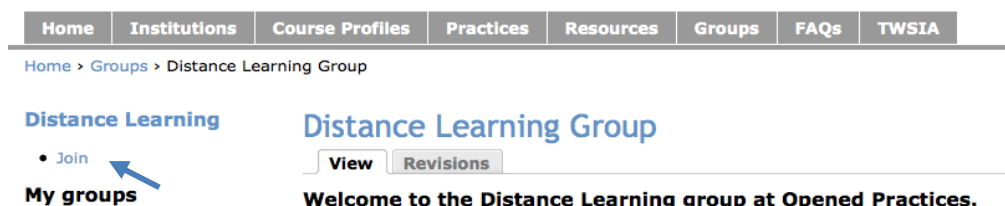
### Join Us!

Join the discussion in our [new groups](#) or add your own content to the repository. It's as easy as 1-2-3!

Don't forget to [register](#) or [log in](#) to get started or [read more detailed instructions](#).

## Joining a Group

1. Log into <http://openedpractices.org>
2. Select Groups from the top navigation menu.
3. Select the Group you which to join (e.g. Distance Learning).
  - *Note: Groups that are not Public or that are By Invitation Only will not appear in this list unless you are already a member.*
4. Once the Group page has displayed select **Join** in the upper left column (see screen shot below).



5. You will be prompted “Are you sure you want to join the group Distance Learning?” to confirm joining the group, select **Join**.
6. You are now a member of the group.

## Groups & Group Discussions

### Creating a new Group Discussion Topic

1. Log into <http://openedpractices.org>.
2. Go to Groups and Select the Group you wish to participate in (e.g. Distance Learning).
3. From the menu in the left column select **Create Discussion**.
4. Add a Title, body, and any relevant attachments.
5. Select the **Preview** or **Save** button to make you Discussion available.

#### Distance Learning

- Create Discussion
- Invite friend
- 2 members
- Manager: robcoble
- My membership

Save Preview

### Commenting on a Discussion Topic

1. Log into <http://openedpractices.org>
2. Go to the discussion topic you wish to comment on.
3. Click on the topic title.
4. Under the original post, or last comment you will be able to add a **Subject**, **Comment**, and **Preview** or **Save**.
  - You will not see the area to add a comment if you are not signed into openedpractices.org and are not a member of the group.

### Changing Notification Settings

1. Once logged in you can select the **My Account** menu item from the **User Menu**.
2. Select **Notifications** from the top menu items (shown below).
3. To set your default notification preferences select the **"Edit your notification settings"** link (shown below).
4. To edit notifications to specific discussions or other content select **"Administer your subscriptions"** (shown below).

#### robcoble

- Groups
- My Unread
- My account
- Create content
- Recent posts
- Administer
- Log out

### My account

View Edit **Notifications** Track Contact

Overview Subscriptions

#### Current status:

- You have 10 active subscriptions.
- Your default sending method for new subscriptions is Mail
- Your default sending interval for new subscriptions is Immediately

#### You can:

- Administer your subscriptions
- Edit your notifications settings
- Temporarily disable all your subscriptions
- Cancel all your subscriptions