# Prevent New Threads

For some standard discussions, you may want to limit students to replying to specific threads rather than have them post new threads. For instance, you might want them to choose one of two or three topics to reflect upon. If you don't control their ability to add new threads, the forum can become somewhat chaotic, with students chiming in willy-nilly. Instead, you can add a post for each topic and then eliminate the "Add a new discussion" link for students, allowing them only to respond to the threads you initiate.

To remove the "Add a new discussion" link on the students' pages, you'll assign a *No New Threads role* to your students. **Note**: This role will apply solely to this forum; students will be able to add threads in other forums.

Here's how to achieve this effect:

1.  Create a standard forum. Click on **Save and display** after drafting your prompt and selecting the desired forum options.

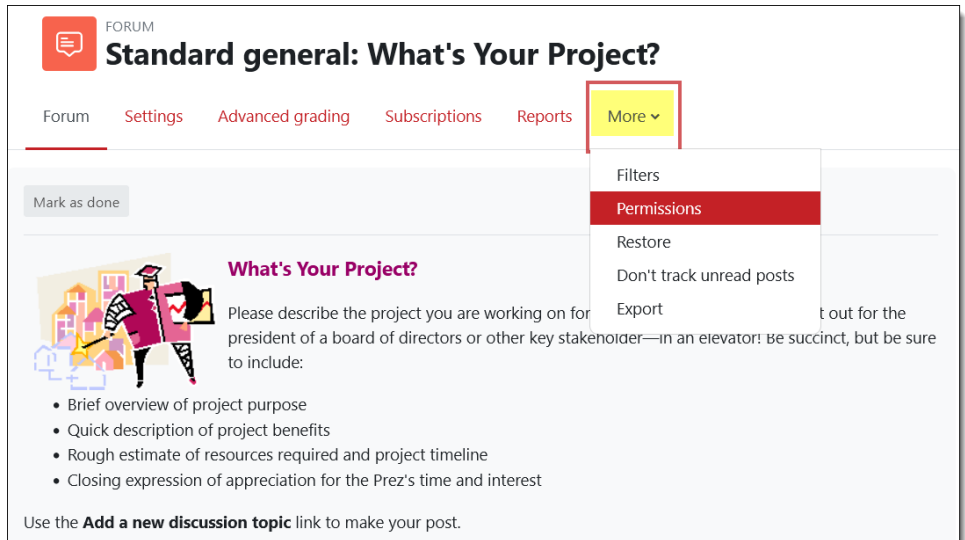2.  Open the **More** menu, then select **Permissions** (Figure 1).



**Figure 1: Select Locally Assigned Roles**

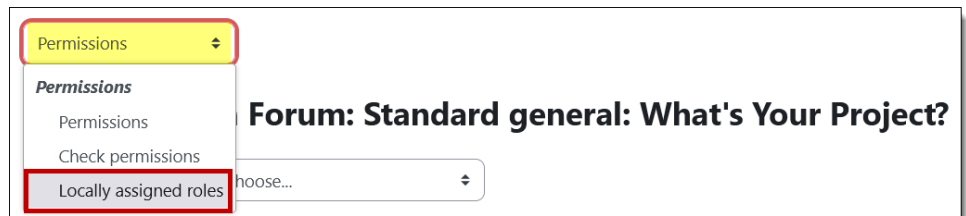3.  In the **Permissions** pull-down menu, select **Locally assigned roles** (Figure 2).



**Figure 2: Select Locally Assigned Roles**

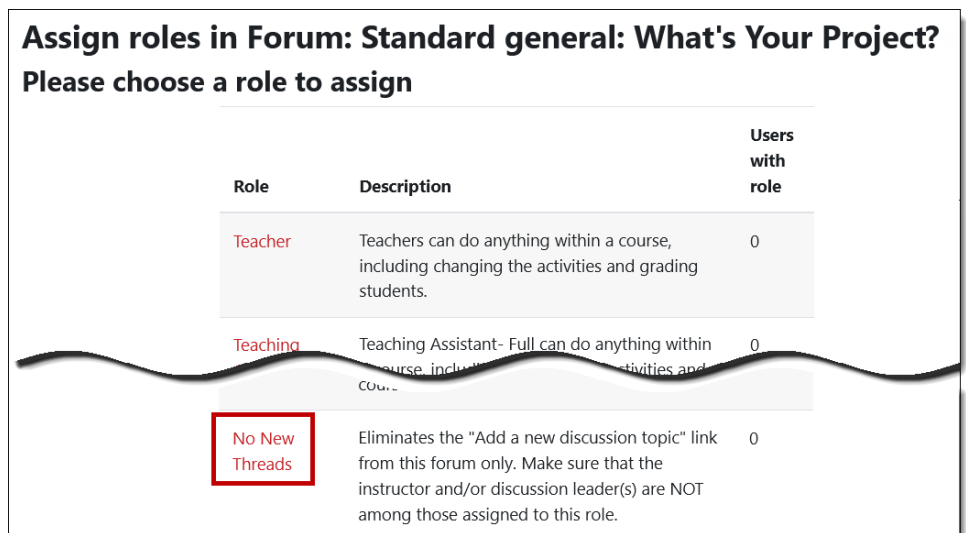4.  Scroll down and click on **No New Threads** to select this role (Figure 3).



**Figure 3: Select No New Threads Role**

5.  Select all the students listed except for any who might be serving as discussion leaders for this forum (Figure 5). Be careful—don't select yourself!
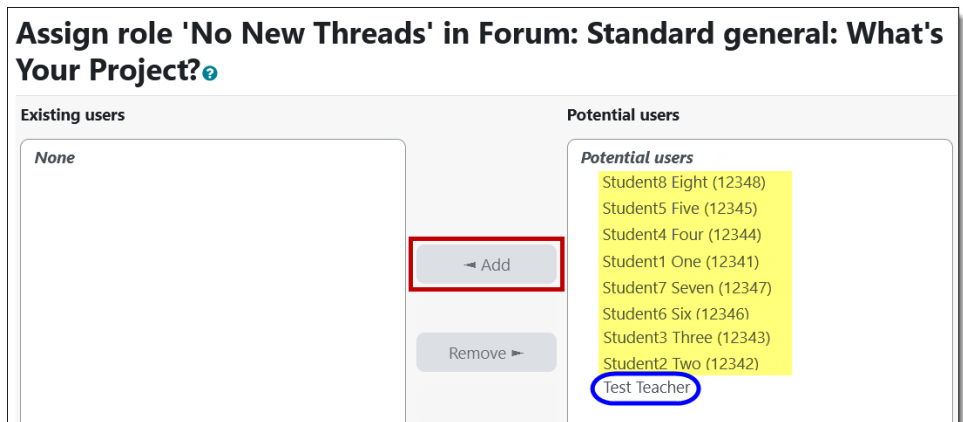
6.  Click on **Add**.

**Assign role 'No New Threads' in Forum: Standard general: What's Your Project?**

**Existing users**

None

← Add

Remove ►

**Potential users**

Student8 Eight (12348)
Student5 Five (12345)
Student4 Four (12344)
Student1 One (12341)
Student7 Seven (12347)
Student6 Six (12346)
Student3 Three (12343)
Student2 Two (12342)
Test Teacher

**Figure 4: Select Users**

7.  Check the list of students assigned to the **No new threads** role and make sure you remain a "potential user" (Figure 4).

**Assign role 'No New Threads' in Forum: Standard general: What's Your Project?**

**Existing users**

*Users in this Activity module (8)*
Student8 Eight (12348)
Student5 Five (12345)
Student4 Four (12344)
Student1 One (12341)
Student7 Seven (12347)
Student6 Six (12346)
Student3 Three (12343)
Student2 Two (12342)

← Add

Remove ►

**Potential users**

Test Teacher

**Figure 5: Verify Users Assigned to Role**

8.  Click on the **Forum** link to post the threads that you would like students to follow for the forum.
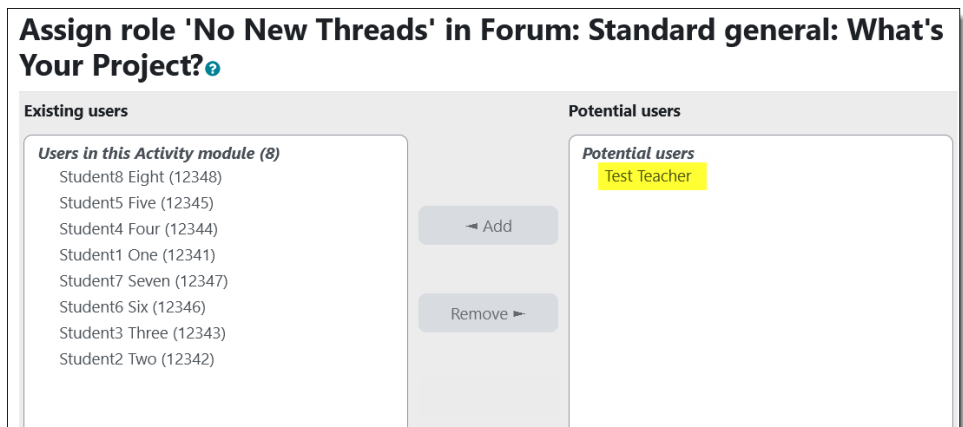
You can check your success by [switching your role to Student](#). When you open the forum, you should not see the "Add a new discussion" link (Figure 6).

See these additional guides to working with forums:

- [Create a Forum](#)
- [Forum Types](#)
- [Whole Forum Grading](#)
- [Ratings Forum Grading](#)
- [Manage Forums for Groups](#)
- [Tips for Forums](#)

**Standard general: What's Your Project?**

Forum | Settings | Advanced grading | Subscriptions | Reports | More ⌄

Mark as done

**What's Your Project?**

Please describe the project you are working on for this class as if you were laying it out for the president of a board of directors or other key stakeholder—in an elevator! Be succinct, but be sure to include:

- Brief overview of project purpose
- Quick description of project benefits
- Rough estimate of resources required and project timeline
- Closing expression of appreciation for the Prez's time

Use the **Add a new discussion topic** link to make your po...
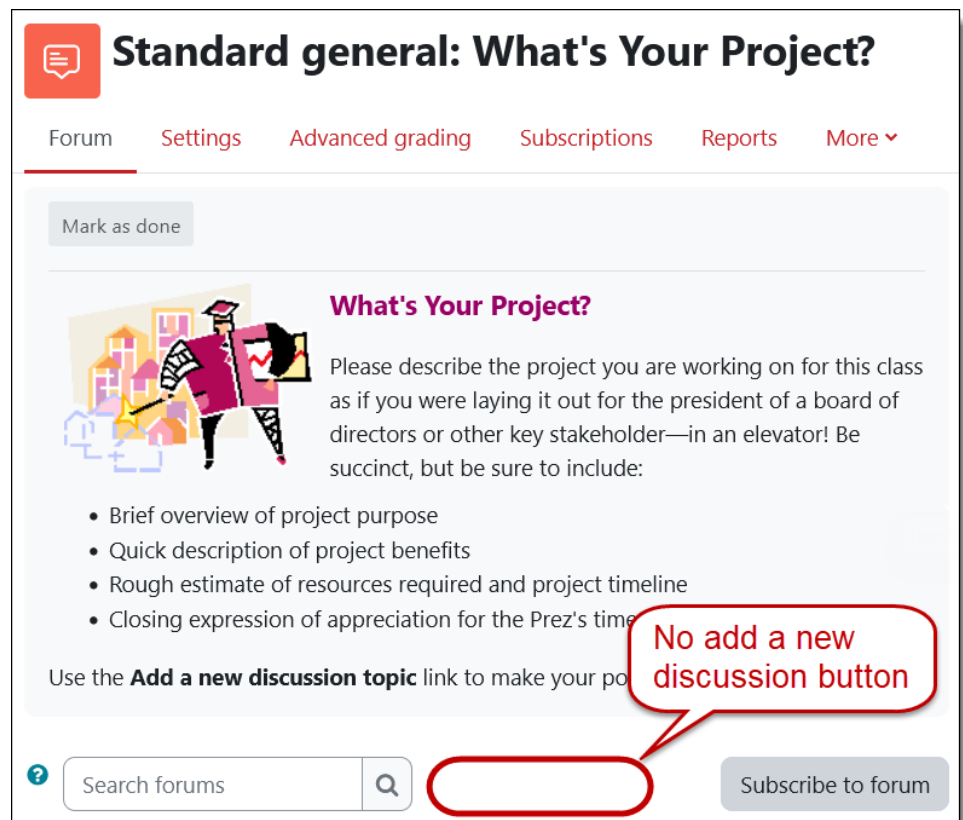
No add a new discussion button

Search forums 🔍

Subscribe to forum

**Figure 6: Check Student View**