

Discussion Groups

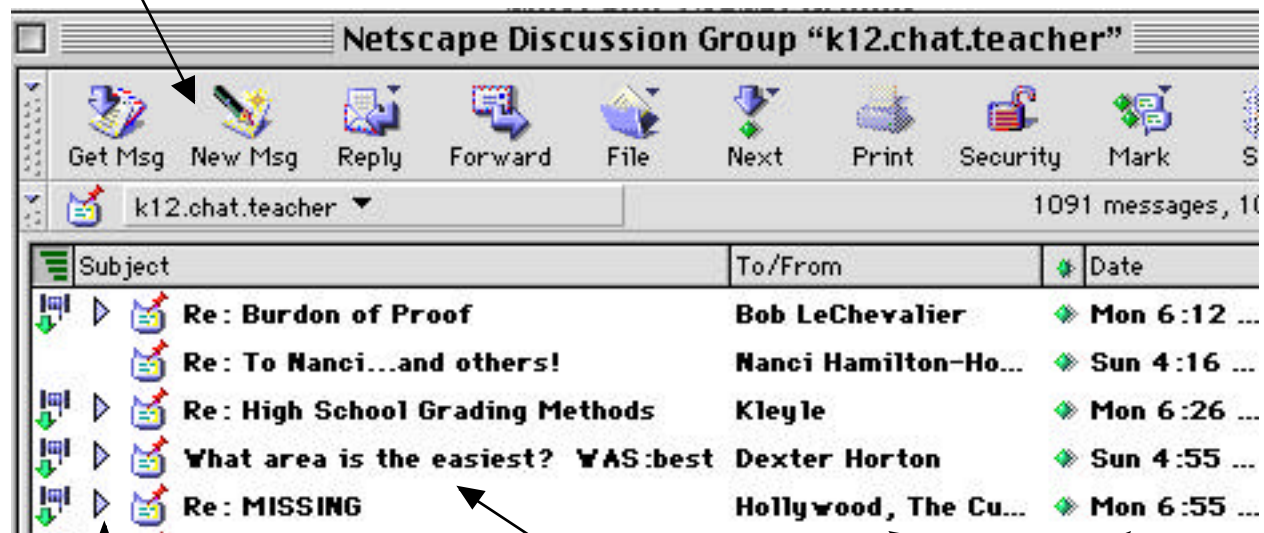
Discussion groups are kind of like a giant bulletin board where communication between users can be seen by everyone else.

Some post an idea, question or comment, and other users can reply to that posting or move on to another idea.

You need an e-mail address and some sort of e-mail provider to connect to a discussion group. For right now, we are going to use Netscape Communicator to connect to a discussion group.

There are thousands of different groups out there. You can get to some of the educational ones from <http://edweb.gsn.org/usenets.html>. When you click on a link, like “k12.chat.teacher”, the following window opens up. (A similar window opens up in AOL.)

Along the top is a tool bar similar to what you get when you are sending e-mail.



The little arrows tell you that this a “thread”, or a topic that one or more people have commented on.

These are the subjects (what the author put in the subject line of their original e-mail.

These are the authors and the dates sent.

To **read** a message left by someone else, double-click on the subject line. The message will open up in another window.

example:

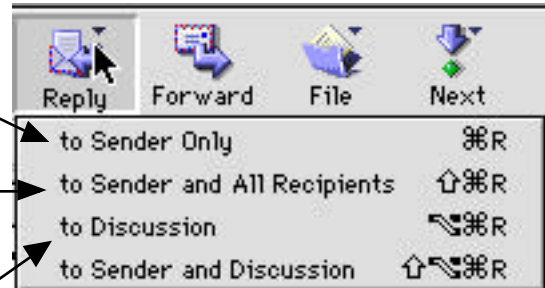


To **reply** to a message left by someone else, you have several options. If click and hold on the “Reply” button, you get this menu:

“to Sender Only” means to reply to just one person.

“to Sender and All Recipients” means to reply to that one person and everyone else they had written that message to.

“to Discussion” means to reply to the discussion group itself, so it can be read by everyone.



“to Sender and Discussion” means a copy goes to the person who wrote the first message, and a copy goes out to the discussion group.

To **send** a message and start a new thread, click “New Message”. The address of the discussion group should automatically pop into the “To” section of your e-mail program.