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Subject: Re: Top or bottom posting; does it really matter?

Posted by [Charles Richmond](#) on Wed, 29 Sep 2021 16:54:35 GMT

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On 9/28/2021 8:09 AM, Questor wrote:

> On Mon, 27 Sep 2021 09:58:58 +0100, gareth evans <headstone255@yahoo.com> wrote:

>> Netiquette is not etiquette.

>

> It certainly is. It is a branch of etiquette that deals specifically with

> online communications.

>

[... quoted material omitted ...]

> Layout matters, viz:

>

> <https://keepmeme.com/meme/you-matter-dont-give-up-or-you-dont-matter-give-up>

>

>

> Every so often some pedant comes along and advances the argument that some part

> of established etiquette, for example, shop clerks asking "how are you" or

> wishing you a nice day -- to say nothing of "please" and "thank you" -- are

> superfluous and unnecessary because they convey no information and are just some

> outdated, arbitrary convention, and thus can be discarded. They ignore that,

> among other things, these phrases actually provide useful functions: they can

> reveal intentions, set expectations, and generally establish a framework for

> successful transactions between strangers. You might think of them as verbal

> lubricant, or liken them to a computer protocol that allows two heterogeneous

> computers to exchange data. Be it place settings, wedding invitations, or some

> other etiquette matter, the same tired arguments regarding their irrelevance

> are made periodically, and same valid refutations are made in return.

>

> And so it is with netiquette, and most frequently, the top/bottom posting issue.

> That horse is long dead, beaten into a grease spot, and even the bones are

> turning to dust. The overwhelming consensus is that bottom posting and

> judicious trimming of long posts is the proper course. Exceptions are rare,

> and continued top posting marks one as a newbie or a self-declared iconoclast

> who thinks they are championing reason, freedom, or some other abstraction.

> But they are just ignorant, or being selfish and childish. They tilt at

> windmills in their mind.

>

Is there an RFC somewhere that discusses all this???

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Charles Richmond

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