Discourse is open source software designed to make it easy to host your own online discussion forum. It is similar in many ways to math.stackexchange.com - the mostly awesome, online discussion forum that many tech savvy mathematicians will be familiar with. Discourse has many of the same features, including real time interaction, the ability to upload images, and mathematical typesetting via MathJax - but you can make it your own and have complete control. This allows a teacher to harness the benefits of encouraging students to communicate mathematically using modern technological tools but without forcing undergraduates into the online wilderness. The author discusses his experiences and results, educational and technical, of three years of using Discourse and similar tools in the classroom. (Received September 16, 2016)