

Using Piazza for the PUMaC 2017 Power Round

This document is intended to provide coaches and students with details about Piazza and how to use it effectively. We also attempt to answer some questions you may have about Piazza.

General

What is Piazza and why are we using it?

Piazza is a classroom question and answer forum where students (e.g. PUMaC competitors) can post questions that can be answered by instructors (e.g. PUMaC staff). We are asking teams to sign up for this forum so that all the questions that teams ask about the Power Round and our answers to them will be available to all teams.

What else is Piazza?

Piazza also happens to function as a job search platform, but coaches and participants certainly **do not need to fill out any part of the profile related to that**. We are most definitely not asking any students to fill out any sort of profile for potential employers. If upon logging in you are asked to set up a job-search-related profile, there should be a button that says "Continue to Dashboard" (or something similar) that will allow you to bypass it.

If you have additional concerns about "Piazza Careers", you may wish to follow the following two steps:

1. Click the gear button on the top right corner and go to "Account/Email Settings". At the bottom, under "Piazza Careers", uncheck "Opt in" and then click "Save Careers Preferences".
2. Click on your name in the top right corner to go to your profile. Click on the tiny briefcase button on the top right corner. Under "How companies interact with me on Piazza Careers", choose "No companies can view my profile" and under "How students interact with me on Piazza Careers", choose "No students can view my profile".

How do I access the PUMaC 2017 Power Round Piazza?

The forum may be accessed using [this link](#). Use the access code `pumacpower2017` to gain access to the forum. Anyone who has the link and access code may register, so please share this information with your team.

Are we required to use Piazza?

No, participants are more than welcome to email us at pumac@math.princeton.edu with any questions. However, we believe that Piazza will be useful as it allows us to display commonly asked questions whose answers other students may find useful.

Using Piazza

If I'm a coach, must I log into Piazza using my coach email address?

No, that is not a requirement. You may register on Piazza using any email address and name that you wish, if privacy is a concern for you.

What happens when I post to Piazza?

By default, your post will be privately sent to the set of PUMaC staff members monitoring the Piazza board. A PUMaC staff member will then get back to you about your question, and then make your post public if they feel it does not give anything away about the solution. This way, if other students have a similar question, they can find it on Piazza.

You may also choose to publish your post publicly (that is, viewable to all other students) but this is **not recommended** as you may inadvertently give away part or all of a solution.

Why am I getting emails from Piazza?

As a forum, anytime a question is asked publicly Piazza automatically emails all students and instructors. You may reduce the frequency of these emails or disable them altogether by clicking the gear in the top right corner, clicking "Account/Email Settings", and adjusting the relevant settings for the PUMaC 2017 Power Round class.

On occasion, we may send out announcements through Piazza. PUMaC staff members have the ability to email everybody, regardless of their email preferences. We will strive to use this feature rarely.