



Standards for Evaluating Class Participation

Class participation provides an opportunity to practice speaking and persuasive skills, as well to listen to, critique, and support the arguments and analyses of your peers. The evaluation of your class participation is **neither** a measure of simple attendance **nor** that you answer every question in class correctly – many of the issues we will confront in this course have been vexing the human mind for millennia and while solutions would be welcomed, they are hardly expected. Moreover, learning is an experimental process and oftentimes the experiments of even the most dedicated and intellectually engaged students go astray. This evaluation will reflect, however, the **regular, careful preparation** of assigned material and the **consistent, enthusiastic attempt to share your interpretations with your peers and engage with their interpretations.**

Students finding it difficult to participate for any reason should see me as soon as possible.

Participation is evaluated on a scale from A+ to C- or No Credit for unacceptable work.

- A Outstanding Contributor:** Contributions in class reflect exceptional preparation. Ideas offered are always substantive, provide one or more major insights, and spur discussion in new and interesting directions. Challenges are well substantiated and persuasively presented. If this person were not a member of the class, the quality of course as a whole would be diminished markedly.
- B Good Contributor:** Contributions in class reflect thorough preparation. Ideas offered are usually substantive, provide good insights, and occasionally spur discussion in new direction. Challenges are well substantiated and often persuasive. If this person were not a member of the class, the quality of discussion would be diminished.
- C Adequate Contributor:** Contributions in class reflect satisfactory preparation. Ideas offered are sometimes substantive, provide generally useful insights but seldom offer a new direction for the discussion. Challenges are sometimes presented, are reasonably substantiated, and are sometimes persuasive. If this person were not a member of the class, the quality of discussion would be diminished somewhat.
- NC Non-Participant:** This person says little or nothing in class. Hence, there is not an adequate basis for evaluation. If this person were not a member of the class, the quality of discussion would not be changed.
- NC Unsatisfactory Contributor:** Contributions in class reflect inadequate preparation. Ideas offered are seldom substantive, provide few if any insights and never a constructive direction for the class. Integrative comments and effective challenges are absent. If this person were not a member of the class, valuable class time would be saved and the quality of the course improved.

N.B.: NEVER refrain from making a comment for fear of how it may effect your evaluation. This rubric evaluates participation over the span of a semester, not your response to a given question, or even your performance on a given day. 99% of the time, the only inappropriate questions or comments are those that are not made. **Take a chance. Let your opinion be heard.**