

Guidelines for Evaluating Participation

Outstanding Contributor: Contributions in class reflect exceptional preparation. Ideas offered are always substantive, provide one or more major insights as well as direction for the class. Challenges are well substantiated and persuasively presented. If this person were not a member of the class, the quality of discussion would be diminished markedly. (Outstanding contributors will receive full credit = 20 points.)

Good Contributor: Contributions in class reflect thorough preparation. Ideas offered are usually substantive, provide good insights and sometimes direction for the class. Challenges are well substantiated and often persuasive. If this person were not a member of the class, the quality of discussion would be diminished. (Good contributors will receive 18 out of 20 points.)

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, fairly well substantiated, and are sometimes persuasive. If this person were not a member of the class, the quality of discussion would be diminished somewhat. (Adequate contributors will receive 16 out of 20 points.)

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. (Non-participants will receive 10 out of 20 points.)

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. (Unsatisfactory contributors will receive 10 out of 20 points.)

The source of this rubric is the UW-Madison Writing Across the Curriculum website authored by Professor Virginia Sapiro. It was developed by Professor John Tyler of Brown University who obtained these guidelines from Professor Richard J. Murnane at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Professor Murnane, in turn, learned of them from someone else (although the original attribution for the guidelines has been lost).