

CLASS PARTICIPATION EVALUATION CRITERIA

People, class participation will be evaluated roughly on the basis of the criteria specified below. Please also note that class participation, as indicated in the appendix to the syllabus, does not include being a class clown and/or a class jerk. A class jerk is someone who is so insecure that he/she thinks that he/she can build self-confidence by frequently interrupting class proceedings with frivolous questions and comments aimed solely at trying to show off to other class members that he/she knows more than the teacher. If you are a class jerk you do not belong in this class. Advice: deal with your insecurity in some other way: get psychiatric help.

	Exemplary (90%-100%)	Proficient (80%-90%)	Developing (70%-80%)	Unacceptable (>70%)
Frequency of participation in class	Student initiates contributions more than once in each class.	Student initiates contribution once in each class.	Student initiates contribution at least in half of the class	Student does not initiate contribution and needs instructor to solicit input.
Quality of comments	Comments always insightful and constructive; uses appropriate terminology. Comments balanced between general impressions, opinions and specific, thoughtful criticisms or contributions.	Comments mostly insightful and constructive; mostly uses appropriate terminology. Occasionally comments are too general or not relevant to the discussion.	Comments are sometimes constructive, with occasional signs of insight. Student does not use appropriate terminology; comments not always relevant to the discussion.	Comments are uninformative, lacking in appropriate terminology. Heavy reliance on opinion and personal taste, e.g., "I love it", "I hate it", "It's bad" etc.
Listening Skills	Student listens attentively when others present materials, perspectives, as indicated by comments that build on others' remarks, i.e., student hears what others say and contributes to the dialogue.	Student is mostly attentive when others present ideas, materials, as indicated by comments that reflect and build on others' remarks. Occasionally needs encouragement or reminder from T.A. of focus of comment.	Student is often inattentive and needs reminder of focus of class. Occasionally makes disruptive comments while others are speaking.	Does not listen to others; regularly talks while others speak or does not pay attention while others speak; detracts from discussion; sleeps, etc.

(Criteria adapted from a document produced by the [Eberly Center](#) for Teaching Excellence & Educational Innovation, Carnegie Mellon University.)

Class Participation

"The unnecessary fear of what others will think, is the prison of your mind. Get out of this prison."

"Rudeness is a weak person's imitation of strength"

—Eric Hoffer (philosopher)



Be a **Learn it all** not a **Know it all**

"Those who think they know it all have no way of finding out they don't."

—Leo Buscaglia (professor)

"IGNORANCE OFTEN BREEDS ARROGANCE, WHICH IN TURN BREEDS A PROFOUND ABSENCE OF CIVILITY"

It is most ironic, and even tragic, that there is probably no other setting besides the classrooms and hallways of academia where this axiom holds so true.