

Grading Online Discussion Participation: A Sample Rubric

1

The following grading rubric was taken from the course "Student Assessment in Online Courses," a component of the Making the Virtual Classroom a Reality series of online faculty development courses offered through the University of Illinois Online Department (<http://www.mvcr.org>).

In this course 40 percent of a participant's final grade is based on participation in class discussions.

A-LEVEL PARTICIPATION (40 Points)

- The participant consistently posted insightful comments and questions that prompted on-topic discussion.
- The participant consistently helped clarify or synthesize other group members' ideas.
- If disagreeing with another group members' ideas, the participant stated his or her disagreement or objections clearly, yet politely.

B-LEVEL PARTICIPATION (36 Points)

- The participant was notably lacking in one or two of the items listed for A-level participation.
- The participant consistently had to be prompted or coaxed to participate.
- The participant usually, but not always, expressed herself or himself clearly.

C-LEVEL PARTICIPATION (32 Points)

- The participant was consistently lacking in two or more of the items listed for A-level participation.
- The participant was extremely reluctant to participate, even when prompted.
- The participant rarely expressed himself or herself clearly.

D-LEVEL PARTICIPATION (32 Points)

- The participant frequently attempted (success is irrelevant) to draw the discussion off-topic, even if the participant's participation otherwise conforms to a higher level on the rubric.

F-LEVEL PARTICIPATION (32 Points)

- The participant was rude or abusive to other course participants. The participant consistently failed or refused to participate at all, even when specifically prompted or questioned, even if the participant's participation otherwise conforms to a higher level on the rubric.