

YOUR CLASS PARTICIPATION

One of the important objectives of our World History course is building skills and one of these skills is articulating what you have learned. Therefore, considerable in-class activity will be focused on discussion and debate. 100 points of your final grade will be awarded based on class participation. This document is being presented to help you understand what constitutes "class participation" and the reasons for its high emphasis.

PURPOSE

You are expected to come to class prepared. That preparation is a result of the completion of your readings. You will be completing an outline and writing a paragraph on what you find most interesting in each chapter, how it relates to the larger picture, and how it relates to us today. This is what we will discuss during class. These assignments will

keep you organized and on schedule to finish your work on time.

Those of you who are consistently prepared are clearly demonstrating your ability to properly schedule and manage your time. Your ability to participate in class discussion and debate is a reflection of your determination to learn.

Within the process of class discussion, you will experience the nature of give and take and you will acquire the ability to actively listen and consider opposing viewpoints. Ultimately, this process will have a positive impact on your communications skills. As you know, building oral and written communication skills are featured in the goals and objectives of this course in World History.

Clarifications on the Meaning of Class Participation

- You are participating in the verbal exchange during class when***

- ***you are asking a question or responding to a question.***
- ***when you ask for clarification of a word or concept under consideration;***
- ***when you offer an expansion of a viewpoint or an alternative viewpoint to the topic under discussion.***
- ***when you offer a response that demonstrates you are attempting to better understand a topic under discussion.***

PREPARATION FOR PARTICIPATION

- ***Prepare written questions for each class based on the readings.***
- ***When reading the chapters, envision what general topics the class discussion might cover. For example during the "French Revolution" the readings will reveal in 1792 the revolutionaries started from Year One of a new calendar, destroyed monuments of the monarchy, and changed street names. This may set the stage for a discussion on how historical change occurs, is revolutionary change***

possible, or what changes would you like to see take place in our times.

- ***Make connections! Observe human nature within the historical narrative. Formulate questions about human traits and compare and contrast different cultures. For example, the subjugation of women. What are the historical origins of this phenomenon and why, in modern times, are women still considered inferior or, even in some cases, merely property in some cultures?***
- ***Compare and Contrast! For example; consider the level of technology and think about what implications it has politically, socially, and economically.***
- ***Be creative; think of ways to stimulate discussion.***

GOLDEN RULES FOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION:

- ***When anyone asks a question it will always be considered a GOOD QUESTION!***

- ***You are always expected to be polite and respectful***

HOW IS PARTICIPATION GRADED?

- ***During class I will note the quality and quantity of your participation. You will either receive 5, 10 or 15 class points for your participation***
- ***Your preparation for class participation will be obvious in the quality of your communication.***
- ***Participation that indicates a strong desire to learn or to understand a topic more clearly will be rewarded.***
- ***Your questions as to the meaning of vocabulary used during a lecture or class discussion will be graded highly.***

I invite you to make an appointment to discuss the status of your class participation at any time during the semester.

