

Class Participation: Making Contributions that Count- Adapted from

<http://www.princeton.edu/mcgraw/library/for-students/class-participation-contr/>

Participating in class doesn't come easily to everyone. Some students feel comfortable speaking up in class, asserting their ideas and opinions, and taking center stage. Other students find it harder to hold the floor. But if the aim of class discussion is to learn from others and allow them to learn from you, lots of contributions count, including questioning, listening, and responding. Your discussion leader values these contributions, too.

- **Make a comment to link two people's contributions and/or to summarize a recurring theme.**
 - E.g. "It's interesting that Mahnaz and Lea both seem to..."
 - E.g. "I'm noticing that our class discussion seems to be focusing on Which is interesting because..."

- **Explain that you found another person's ideas interesting or useful, and describe why.**
 - E.g. "I agree with Yiling's point about... because in my experience..." (or "because I think that...")

- **Paraphrase and/or build on what someone else has said.** Be explicit about the way you are extending the other person's thought.
 - E.g. "Building off what Savant was saying, I think..."

- **Encourage someone to clarify or elaborate on a comment.**
 - E.g. "Yang, I think you make an interesting point, and I'd love to know what you or others in the class think about... "
 - E.g. "I see that...but I'm not sure about... I'd love if someone wanted to comment on..."

- **Find a way to express appreciation for the insights you have gained from the discussion or a connection you've made to your prior learning or life experience.**
 - E.g. "It's helpful to hear what you all have to say about this, because..."
 - E.g. "I keep coming back to my own experience as..." or "I'm remembering one of our previous readings/discussions about..."

- **Disagree with someone in a respectful and constructive way.** You might reflect the comment back to the speaker to indicate that you have listened well. If possible, point out what is interesting or compelling in someone's comment before explaining why and how you disagree.
 - E.g. "I think Tabasum is bringing up an important point. And at the same time..."
 - E.g. "I'm interested in what Shabana mentioned, because my response/understanding was a little different...."

OTHER IDEAS??? 😊