

A Note on Class Participation Requirements

Participating in class is a great way to master the course materials. Having a broad range of student voices in the class discussion also makes class more interesting (at least for me!).

On the other hand, participation can be stressful for some students in ways that undercut their ability to concentrate in class. Law school class participation can also feel unproductively judgmental for some students.

With these competing factors in mind, I plan to offer two of options for student participation. Students can sign up for panels on which they will be on call on preassigned days. Alternatively, students can sign up for written participation. Those students will be emailing me written comments on the class materials in advance of class on preassigned days. Those comments will be due 24 hours before class time, so that I can incorporate them into the discussion. They need only be about 200 words (I will not be counting words, so this is just to give you a sense of my general length expectations), and they should respond to two or more of the cases read. You will have the same number of required participation days whether you choose panels or written comments. I will provide more detailed information about the sign-ups, requirements, methods for exchanging days, etc., on the first day of class.

And, of course, students always are welcome to volunteer comments, questions, etc., as time permits.

Participation will be worth 10% of the final grade. If you do nothing to participate, you will lose 10 points on your final score. Otherwise, every good faith effort to participate will count toward that 10%, and you can obtain full credit by making a good faith effort to participate (either orally or in writing) on all of your assigned days. I reserve the right to reward extraordinary participation in the final grade, and to dock participation points for conduct that disrupts the class or otherwise hinders the learning of others.