SAMPLE Discussion Participation Rubric

The minimum requirements for the frequency to log in should be made clear to your students. A sample participation instruction is: The student must log in on three different days during the week – not only posting three comments and/or responses during the week, but during each log in, the student should post several postings and respond to many others. If a student fails to meet this minimum requirement, the participation points for that week are 0. Also, a repeated lack of participation will result in a failing grade in the course.

Criteria	Unacceptable 0 points	Poor 1 point	Fair 2 points	Good 3 points	Exemplary 4 points
Level of Participation	No postings	Posts 1-3 high-quality postings during the week	Posts 4-6 high-quality postings during the week	Posts 7-9 high-quality postings during the week	Posts more than 10 high- quality postings during the week
Initial Posting/s	No initial posting/s	The initial posting is submitted late and/or lacks significantly in substance and/or does not invite rich discussion.	The initial posting is submitted on time, but is weak in substance and/or does not invite rich discussion.	The initial posting is submitted on time, addresses a somewhat important component and engages others in discussion.	The initial posting is submitted on time, is thoughtful, addresses very important topic/s related to course material and invites rich discussion.
Contributions	Postings missing or minimal and thus do not contribute to group discussion	Student postings lack in significance and don't generate discussion.	Student postings tap into some worthwhile components but don't address higher-level thinking and processing.	Student postings <i>inconsistently</i> consist of insightful comments, thought-provoking questions, higher-level thinking and contribute significantly to the group discussion and the collective learning of the class.	Student postings <i>consistently</i> consist of insightful comments, thought-provoking questions, higher-level thinking and contribute significantly to the group discussion and the collective learning of the class.

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Specificity of Examples	Does not provide examples	Student uses some examples but they do not significantly help in clarifying concepts or making a point.	Student uses examples, some of which help illustrate the concepts under consideration but does not help draw connections between theory and practice.	examples in postings that help somewhat illustrate the	Student uses real-life, meaningful examples in postings that significantly help illustrate the concepts under consideration, draw connections between theory and practice and provide a context for the topics in question
Timeliness	Does not respond in a timely manner	Postings are very few, and/or irregular, poorly paced out and/or don't provide timely responses to others' questions or comments.	Student submits posts on an inconsistent pace and/or lacks in regularity in responses to others' postings in a timely manner.	Student submits postings on multiple occasions, on a relatively consistent pace and for the most part regularly responds to others' postings in a timely manner.	Student submits postings on multiple occasions, on a consistent pace and regularly responds to others' postings in a timely manner.
Total	20 points				