

# Participation and engagement

*ENGL 306, Fall 2015, Bradley Dilger*

**Summary:** Participate in our classroom spaces, and perhaps outside too, demonstrating your engagement with our readings, in-class work, key projects, and each other.

**Calendar:** Continuous; every week, excepting exam week.

Participation is an important part of professional writing, and thus English 306. Working with your peers and me will help you in many different types of social writing situations, such as writing for review by others; co-authoring with a co-worker; and respectfully reading others' writing. Participate and engage by:

1. bringing your texts and necessary materials, and make your preparation clear by reading the detailed schedule and following with quality engagement (attention, questions, in-class effort, etc.);
2. inviting others to engage our readings or in-class activities by responding to their ideas in a respectful, careful, constructive manner;
3. performing well on in-class writing and other small assignments;
4. participating in group work, via leadership and/or being an engaged contributor;
5. contributing relevant, carefully considered examples for discussions;
6. enriching our class community by helping others (for example, sharing notes when a classmate is absent);
7. extending our conversations beyond the ~150 minutes we share each week by activity in the PW Club, visiting my office, getting help from the Writing Lab, or forming study groups;
8. submitting your writing for consideration for local or national awards or publication.

Please seek ways to document your contributions; that will help you benefit from them on both the short and long term. I am also willing to help if you need it.

## Grading

Participation is worth 100 points, or 10% of your grade, in ENG 306. Weeks 1–5 are worth 25 points; weeks 6–16 are worth 75 points — about 5 points a week. This uneven distribution means a poor evaluation for the first five weeks won't doom you to a poor grade for the semester.

Throughout the semester, I will collect in-class assignments and regularly take notes about your engagement. Reviewing these texts, my notes from class, and your self-evaluation (see below) will help me assign your grade. You cannot make up in-class work missed due to absences—but I will assign grades in a manner which gives you some room for error.

- A Consistently accomplish six or more of the above.
- B Participate consistently in four or five ways suggested, excelling in at least one.
- C Consistently contribute in three ways, or scattered participation across the board.

- D Inconsistent participation. Preparation or engagement issues. No one area stands out.
- F Failure to excel in any way. Failure to improve when asked.

Please visit office hours or make an appointment with me if you'd like to discuss your participation and/or identify ways to improve.

## **Self-evaluation**

At the end of each evaluation period (Sep 25 and Dec 11), please email me a brief self-evaluation which outlines the grade you think you've earned, calling upon the criteria in this assignment. Include your reasons for believing this is your grade. I will respond with my (dis)agreement, and enter a grade in Blackboard. If you and I disagree sharply, we can talk about it.

**Audience:** You and me only.

**Assignment length:** About 250 words.

**Structure and style:** While this is not a printed assignment, it is meaningful, and self-evaluations should be carefully written and polished. I suggest you draft this email and review it carefully. Please use a meaningful subject line. No attachments; just write in the body.

**Submission:** Email to me on or before the due date.