



Center for the Advancement
of Teaching

*“I Speak, Therefore I
Participate”*

*Rethinking Class
Participation*

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MUSIC STUDIES

Session Goals

- ▶ Identify types of student participation
- ▶ Define efficacy of various types of participation
- ▶ Determine best practices to encourage and improve participation
- ▶ Formulate best practices in assessing student participation



PLEASE DESTROY CELL
PHONES BEFORE ENTERING

Should
phones be
used in
class?!

Participation Poll

[POLLEV.COM/DAVIDPASBRIG128](https://pollev.com/DAVIDPASBRIG128)



Think/Pair/Share



1. LIST METHODS OF PARTICIPATION, SEPARATE INTO EFFECTIVE VS. INEFFECTIVE
2. IS ASSESSMENT EASILY QUANTIFIABLE OR ARBITRARY
3. WHAT CHALLENGES HAVE THESE METHODS PRESENTED?

Method	Quantifiable or Arbitrary	Effective Not effective	Challenges
Oral	Arbitrary	+ /- / Meh	Shy, Anxious, Didn't Hear Question, Don't Speak the Language Well, Someone Else Took My Answer,

Discussion

Should we grade?

REASONS TO GRADE

- Move from point seeker to knowledge seeker
- Classroom participation engages students and encourages active learning
- Develops intellectual and personal skills
- Encourage public speaking and quick thinking

REASONS TO NOT GRADE

- Arbitrary
- Double jeopardy
- Can become checkbox for grade seeker

Promoting Classroom Participation

Make	Make the class a safe and interactive space
Call on	Call on students directly
Avoid	Avoid Yes/No questions
Give	Give time to think
Teach	Teach in bite size chunks
Use	Use icebreakers to encourage students to learn about each other/you
Point out	Point out what is interesting/helpful on student contributions
Groups	Encourages improves academic achievement, relationships, and promotes psychological well-being



Discussion

WAYS TO GRADE EFFECTIVELY

- WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE SOME WAYS TO GRADE EFFECTIVELY?

Discussion

WAYS TO GRADE EFFECTIVELY

- 1. HAVE CLEAR DEFINITION (RUBRIC?) AND EXAMPLES OF PARTICIPATION - EXPAND DEFINITION OF PARTICIPATION
- 2. Take Memory Out Of Equation
 - Grade Engagement Via Concrete Participation Activities That Can Be Tracked And Assessed.
- 3. ENGAGEMENT = PREPARATION + PARTICIPATION
 - Make homework vital to class conversation and learning
- 4. CONSIDER SELF EVALUATION OF ENGAGEMENT
 - Self Documentation Via Rubric Several Times Per Semester

Summary

GRADING PARTICIPATION CAN BE AN EFFECTIVE MOTIVATOR OR A PUNITIVE EXPERIENCE.

USING SPECIFIC, DEFINED METRICS OFFERS STUDENTS A WAY TO PARTICIPATE ON THEIR OWN TERMS.

Additional Resources

- ▶ *Student Participation* | Center for the Advancement of Teaching. (n.d.). Temple University. <https://teaching.temple.edu/student-participation>
- ▶ *Increasing Student Motivation & Participation* | Center for Teaching Innovation. (n.d.). <https://teaching.cornell.edu/teaching-resources/engaging-students/increasing-student-motivation-participation>
- ▶ *Promoting Effective Classroom Participation* | Centre for Teaching. (2021, November 22). Centre for Teaching Excellence. <https://uwaterloo.ca/centre-for-teaching-excellence/teaching-resources/teaching-tips/assessing-student-work/grading-and-feedback/promoting-effective-participation>
- ▶ *Active Learning* | Center for the Advancement of Teaching Excellence | University of Illinois Chicago. (n.d.). <https://teaching.uic.edu/resources/teaching-guides/engaged-teaching-strategies/active-learning/>
- ▶ Millis, B. J. (2014). Using cooperative structures to promote deep learning. *Journal on Excellence in College Teaching*, 25(3&4), 139-148.



Thank you

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