



Student Participation is an assessment of a student's performance in a course outside of their assessments. Items that might be evaluated in student participation are engagement in class discussions, engagement in online discussions and student behaviour in group settings.

John Schindler from California State University offers a good definition of student participation:

*"It might be called group work, citizenship, lab, or behaviour, but it comes down to essentially the same thing, that is, assessing the quality of a student's non-academic performance with a subjective criteria."*

### **Key Points and Tips**

- Encourages regular contribution to class discussions online and in the classroom
- Helps build consistent habits in a lab environment
- Shows that the lecturer rewards responsible and thoughtful contributions in a group setting
- How do we encourage meaningful participation when we are assessing the process?
- Assessment criteria and rationale for criteria must be clearly explained
- Keep in mind that different students will participate in different ways: online discussion, in class, emailing questions, visiting during class hours, etc

Overall Student Participation is meant to create a learning environment where student contributions, peer interactions, and a robust engagement with the course are acknowledged and rewarded by the lecturer.

### **Assessing Student Participation**

Student Participation can be assessed by the lecturer and by self-assessment. If Student Participation is a part of your assessment criteria, it typically can account from 5% - 20% of the final mark.

If the lecturer allows the students to self-assess their Student Participation it is important to provide students with clear criteria for marks in a rubric. Have the students indicate on the rubric where they have placed themselves and ask them to sign it and add comments as to why they awarded themselves this mark.

See Guidelines for Assessing Student Participation from Brown University for one approach to assessing student participation.