

respect your writing. **I will not approve** posts that make no attempt to observe spelling and punctuation correctness.

Weekly current events articles

We will continue to identify connections to the class through weekly current event articles. Box scores or game summaries are not acceptable class contributions. Select articles from the newspapers, Internet or magazines that connect to previous discussions or class reading assignments. You will be expected to answer how it contributes or relates to class. You will also be expected to reference the article electronically or attaching to the summary.

Class Participation

This will not be a lecture-based course. Success depends upon your informed participation in our class discussions. I expect you to come to class prepared to **seriously** and **respectfully engage** with each other and each other's work. I expect you to come to class prepared to ask and respond to challenging questions about the texts at hand.

Here are a few suggestions on how to contribute to class discussions.

- Offer your perspective on a topic, even if you think it differs from "everyone else's."
- Refer to passages in the text, providing page number, place on the page, in the paragraph beginning with ___x___. Read the whole sentence (or more to provide context) that leads into the point that interests you.
- Bring in relevant contemporary issues and examples, including relevant personal experience, or connections to what you are learning in other classes.
- Look up words or references that you do not know in the dictionary, online, or in the library.
- Follow up on a point raised in class by someone else. Ask a question or build upon an idea.
- Everyone is responsible for the quality of the discussion as a whole. Listen, and then point to what is being left out of a discussion, or redirect the discussion by bringing in another piece of text or perspective that you find interesting and pertinent.
- Address comments to the entire class (not just to me); refer to your classmates by name. Example: "I think what Alex said about _____ was _____ because_____."
- Show evidence that you are trying to learn. Demonstrate that you are willing to try out a variety of possible interpretations.
- Make contributions to the topic under discussion that are serious, playful, imaginative—in other words fully engaged.

In the Classroom

Mature conduct is, of course, expected at all times. In case there is any confusion about this, here are a few of the very basics:

- Body language speaks louder than word!
- Don't interrupt your classmates.
- Insults (even when you are "just kidding"), dismissive tone or body language, and interjections off of topic are obviously inappropriate and they will adversely affect your grade.
- One person speaks at a time.