

Scoring Student Participation in Asynchronous Conversations

Like any new skill, students need to get regular feedback in order to become stronger participants in asynchronous conversations. This rubric is designed to help teachers and students rate participation in the asynchronous conversations that we have in class. Consider circling the individual statements that best describe the efforts of the student that you are responsible for giving feedback to.

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Above Average

The comments that you've added to our asynchronous conversation are all clearly connected to the topic that we are studying. Because you knew so much about our topic, you raised points that no one else had considered. Almost everything that you wrote made me want to learn more.

What's even better is that you started some of the most active strands in our conversation—and your comments always made me want to respond! I found myself arguing with your points of view, answering your questions, and thinking harder each time that I came across one of your comments.

The best part about your comments, though, is that you always seemed to find a way to respond to others. I liked that you asked and answered questions and pushed back against the thinking of others. I felt like you wanted to learn as much as you wanted to teach in our conversation, and that you respected the viewpoints that others brought to the table. All of that shows me that you were a good listener—and good listening makes or breaks conversations.

I'm really glad that you were participating in our conversation because I learned so much from you—and from the people who were responding to you!

Average

The comments that you've added to our asynchronous conversation are all clearly connected to the topic that we are studying, but in many places they seem simple. While one or two of your ideas made me think about our topic in new ways, most of the time it seemed like you weren't adding anything new to our conversation. I almost always looked at the comments that you added because I knew they would have potential, but I almost always ended up disappointed because there weren't enough details to leave me jazzed.

I'm also not sure that you've done a good job encouraging other people to participate in our conversation. I liked that you were asking questions, but the questions that you asked could all be answered easily and they rarely started new strands of thinking. I'm also not sure that I saw you answer any questions in our conversation—even when others asked you something directly! Finally, many of your comments repeated ideas that had already been shared by others. All of this makes me wonder whether or not you were listening to the rest of us.

I can't wait to watch you participate in our next conversation because you are right on the edge of being a star. With a bit more effort to share original thoughts and to get others involved, your comments will change minds!

Below Average

The comments that you added to our conversation made me sad. Most of the time, they seemed completely unconnected to the topic that we were studying, and that interrupted some great strands of thinking. I'm not sure that you put much effort into sharing knowledge or bringing new ideas to our discussion—and that's surprising because you've got good ideas to share.

The worst part, though, is that I didn't see any attempts from you to join a conversation. You posted your own thinking time and again, but never responded to anyone. You didn't push against the ideas of your classmates, you didn't ask questions, and you didn't start any new strands for us to consider. In short, you did a lot of talking but you didn't do any listening!

I hate to say it, but I wish you hadn't participated in this conversation. Your posts always seemed to get in the way, and that was frustrating.

