

Class Discussion Rubric

- US History -



One of the most important skills students need to develop in any Social Studies class is the ability to contribute consistently and meaningfully to class discussions. Each of you has a responsibility beyond your own understanding of the topics we cover in class to elevate the understanding of your fellow students and the overall level of discourse. Only when that happens on a regular basis will this be a successful course and will each of you benefit fully from taking it.

To that end, each of you will receive a grade each quarter that evaluates your contributions to class discussions. That grade will be based on both the frequency and quality of what you have to say. Obviously, the more frequently you speak the better chance you have of earning a high grade in this area. However, your grade will be based on more than just a simple tallying of each student's comments. In assigning each grade I will take into account the quality of student contributions, both in terms of their accuracy and relevance, and the degree to which they advance overall understanding.

Each of you should consider that there are numerous ways to contribute to class discussions. While the most obvious way is to answer questions I pose, equally valuable are *asking* good questions and responding respectfully and directly to the comments and questions of your fellow students. I will pay particular attention to these latter forms of participation when assessing student performance. Our designated discussion days for our book readings will provide specific opportunities for you to earn this grade.

I am fully aware that not all of you feel comfortable speaking in class. However, just as important as learning how to write persuasively and study effectively for quizzes and tests are to being a successful student at LRA you must also learn how to contribute to class discussions and how to express yourself clearly. These skills are an essential part of being a well-rounded Lake Ridge student.

Lake Ridge Academy - US History - Mr. Isherwood

The class discussion grade will make up 10% of each student's quarter grade. Here is a guide to what I expect for students achieving particular grades:

<p>A+, A, A-: Students earning these grades will</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Contribute to class discussions on a daily basis● Contribute on multiple occasions each period● Make comments and ask questions that reflect a thoughtful completion of relevant homework assignments● Exhibit a serious approach to the study of history
<p>B+, B: Students earning these grades will</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Contribute to class discussions consistently● Contributions will not be as consistent, either in terms the number of comments per class period or the frequency of classes in which they contribute, as those in the "A" group● Make comments that are relevant, but not as thoughtful or accurate, as those students in the "A" group
<p>B-, C+: Students earning these grades will</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Only contribute to class discussions occasionally, and often only after being addressed directly by me● Not demonstrate the same level of preparation for class
<p>C and below: Students earning these grades will</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Rarely, if ever, contribute to class discussions, even when prompted by me● Appear not to have prepared for class discussions