

# *Guidelines for Seminar Participants*

- Study the text closely in advance. Look for forceful statements or illuminating ideas.
- Share your ideas and questions in response to the ideas and questions of others
- Don't raise hands; take turns speaking.
- Speak up so that all can hear you.
- Listen actively and carefully.
- Do not stay confused; ask for clarification.
- Talk to each other, not just to the leader or teacher.
- Search for evidence in the text to support your ideas.
- There isn't necessarily a "right answer."
- Your goal is to understand the ideas, issues, and values reflected in the text, not learning a "subject."

## SEMINAR PARTICIPATION RUBRIC:

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| <p><b>“A” LEVEL PARTICIPANTS</b></p>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offers enough solid analysis, without prompting, to move the conversation forward</li> <li>• Demonstrates a deep knowledge of the text and question through the participant’s comments and references to the text.</li> <li>• Comes to the seminar prepared with notes.</li> <li>• Comments reveal that participant is actively listening to other participants.</li> <li>• Offers clarification and/or follow-up that extend the conversation.</li> <li>• Participates regularly without dominating the conversation.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>“B” LEVEL PARTICIPANTS</b></p>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offers solid analysis without prompting.</li> <li>• Demonstrates a good knowledge of the text and question through the participant’s comments and use of the text.</li> <li>• Comes to the seminar prepared with notes.</li> <li>• Comments reveal that participant is mostly listening to other participants and offers clarification and/or follow up.</li> <li>• Participates in the conversation often, sometimes dominates the conversation.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>“C” LEVEL PARTICIPANTS</b></p>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offers some analysis, but needs prompting from the seminar leader.</li> <li>• Demonstrates a general knowledge of the text and question through the participant’s comments.</li> <li>• Participant is less prepared, few notes.</li> <li>• Participant is actively listening to others, but does not offer clarification and/or follow up to others’ comments.</li> <li>• Relies mostly upon his/her own opinion, and less on the text to drive his/her participation.</li> <li>• Participant takes part in the conversation in a limited or irrelevant way that distracts from the ongoing conversation about the text.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>“D or F” LEVEL PARTICIPANTS</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participant offers little commentary</li> <li>• Participant comes to the seminar ill prepared with little understanding of the text and question.</li> <li>• Participant does not listen to others, offers no commentary to further the discussion.</li> <li>• Participant distracts others by interrupting other speakers or offering off topic comments and/or questions.</li> <li>• Participant ignores the discussion and its participants.</li> </ul>  |