# Participation Guidelines (500/1000 points)

There are two primary ways that I evaluate your learning: through your completed assignments on one hand, and your in-class participation on the other hand. For me to see that you’re learning, **I need to see and hear you** actively engaged in class lectures and discussions.

There are a few, overlapping ways to demonstrate your participation, all of which I will take into account during my evaluation. (You will see periodic updates on T-Square under Participation to see your standing.)

The best way to demonstrate your in-class participation is by:

1. **Doing the readings and bringing your text to class.**
2. Making frequent and **text-specific oral comments** that initiate new discussions, continue conversations, or offer alternative viewpoints.
3. Demonstrating with your **body language that you are listening to me and your classmates.** Make eye contact and **take notes**.

Preparing ahead of time by writing out your thoughts helps tremendously to contribute in class. Writing after a class discussion, on the other hand, can serve to reflect on ideas that you felt needed more attention, or didn’t get attention at all. To these ends, you might periodically write (and comment) on our class blog and/or update our wiki. Even small contributions will be noted as counting towards your participations. *Note, however, that you need to share in class what you’ve written and why you think it is important for our class discussion or topic at hand*.

Note: commenting on blog posts will also count towards participation.

### Blog and Wiki

* Blog: <http://iron.lcc.gatech.edu/~ntrivedi6/blog>
* Wiki: <http://iron.lcc.gatech.edu/~ntrivedi6/1102/index.php/Main_Page>

As a genre, a blog entry serves a variety of functions: for responding to readings, for commenting on others’ responses, for relating personal observations that reference our course topics, and more. Think of the blog as a cross between a personal journal and a magazine. On one hand, you’re responding very personally. On the other hand, you’re writing for an audience that wants to know your observations, but *why* those observations are worth reading.

Our wiki, on the other hand, is more like an encyclopedia for American culture. Think of the wiki as a resource for yourself and others on a particular topic. For guidelines on how to contribute to the wiki, see <http://iron.lcc.gatech.edu/~ntrivedi6/1102/index.php/Help:Contents> especially the question regarding a model entry.