

In-Depth Discussion Session Grading Rubric

Student's Name: _____

Session #: _____

1 Attendance:

-5 points – Attended class.

-0 points – Failed to attend class.

2 Deliberation: Democratic decision-making requires deliberation, where solutions to public problems are developed through an exchange of ideas characterized by reason-giving, consideration of others' perspectives, inclusive participation, and equal treatment among participants. Deliberation is also, ideally, an open-ended process, where participants truly listen to one another before making up their minds. In short, they are willing to be persuaded by others' experiences, concerns, and reason-giving.

5 points – Read assigned materials, came to class prepared to provide reasons, contributed valuable insights to discussion, listened to others with the goal of understanding alternative points of view (rather than listening to pick apart and reject them).

4 points – Read and came to class prepared, but had difficulty with either reason-giving **or** listening.

3 points -- Read and came to class prepared, but had difficulty with both reason-giving **and** listening.

2 points – Participated, but did not come to class prepared.

1 point – Attended class, but did not participate in discussions.

0 points – Did not attend class.

3 Civility: Political civility serves the same function in public interactions as politeness does in interpersonal interactions, which is to minimize the effect of conflict on potential opponents' willingness or ability to continue to work together. Civil interactions are purposefully intended to facilitate collaboration, even when people disagree, by making it easy to share and explain preferences. Uncivil or rude interactions, on the other hand, sever working relationships – and are characterized by ad hominin character attacks, name-calling, overt challenges, and interruptions.

5 points – Participated fully in the deliberative process, while maintaining a civil demeanor the entire time.

4 points – Participated fully in the deliberative process, but had slight deviations from civility throughout the discussion (perhaps by interrupting or talking over another student).

3 points – Did not participate fully in the deliberative process and/or struggled to maintain civility at several points throughout the discussion (by questioning the character or patriotism of those who disagree, calling names, interrupting, etc.)

2 points – Did not participate fully in the discussion and/or engaged in behavior that was intended to discourage other students from participating as well.

1 point – Attended class, but did not participate in discussion – and did not have the opportunity to demonstrate civil behavior.

0 points – Did not attend class, or engaged in overtly rude behavior.

4 Effective Use of Time: The political science department has dedicated a considerable amount of class time for this semester project because it is important that students not only learn information about American government, but also practice the skills required to become active, effective citizens. Further, the issue to be discussed is a serious one that deserves careful consideration. Class time should be used to practice the skills of deliberation, civility, problem-solving, advocacy and collective action.

-5 points – Used the entire class time effectively.

-4 points – Used at least three-quarters of the class time effectively.

-3 points -- Used at least half of the class time effectively.

-2 points -- Used less than half of the class time effectively.

1 point – Used almost none of the class time effectively.

0 points – Did not attend class.

5 Quality of Resolutions: Deliberation among a diverse group of people typically produces more effective policy recommendations, because the perspectives of everyone affected by a public issue are built into the solution. The resolutions drafted during discussion sessions should be articulate and should reflect the type of thoughtful, innovative recommendations that result from deliberative decision-making.

-5 points – Drafted a resolution that provides reasons and gives an in-depth explanation (of underlying causes, policy recommendations, or preferred strategies) and uses complete sentences.

-4 points – Drafted a resolution, but it does not provide underlying reasons or is not substantial, or does not use complete sentences.

-3 points – Drafted a resolution, but it does not provide underlying reasons and is either not substantial or does not use complete sentences.

-2 points – Wrote a resolution, but it does not provide underlying reasons, is not substantial and does not use complete sentences.

-1 point – Drafted a very superficial resolution with bullet points.

-0 points – Did not attend class.

Total Points Earned:

Comments (optional feedback):