

## AP Discussion Policy

Participation in class discussions is required in AP English Literature. Students who plan to talk about their reading engage entirely different areas of their brain than do students who read “passively.” Also, students who interact with the text and with their classmates write better and do better on the AP test in the spring. Your involvement enriches the experience of your fellow students as well.

Consider this analogy: what would Mr. Schooler’s reaction be if you signed up for his orchestra class and then told him on the first day that you didn’t intend to bring your instrument because you planned to just listen to your fellow students play, and learn from their performance?

Participation for each 6 week grading period will be graded thus:

1-6 contributions = D

7-12 contributions = C

13-18 contributions = B

19-24+ contributions = A

Our daily discussions will involve not just the novels and plays we read, but will include discussions of poetry, close readings of excerpts, some grammar work , defense of multiple choice items, etc. Contributions can take a variety of forms:

- organizing, leading
- summarizing, restating, clarifying
- offering examples from the text
- asking questions
- commenting or giving an opinion
- making a suggestion
- asking for clarification
- reacting to comments
- analyzing the text, a comment, or the discussion itself
- restarting the discussion
- filling in a hole
- arguing a point
- asking for new information
- asking for comments or reactions
- making connections with other texts, situations, or discussions

Some of your contributions can be written on the discussion board.

In addition to our informal daily discussions above, we will also have more formal Harkness or “round table” discussions. Participation in those discussions receives a separate grade. Sometimes the entire class will earn a single shared grade through their involvement; at other times, you will receive an individual score.