Participating in Class

The Importance of Participation

- Participation shows the instructor you are paying attention
- Some instructors may require participation

Steps to Participating

1. Do not be shy.
2. Prepare before class by reading the material and completing the assignments and formulating your own understanding.
3. Put thought behind your opinions, comments and questions during class.

I should participate when:

- my comment will offer an alternative perspective to the discussion
- my question will clarify something that I, and/or my classmates, do not understand
- my comment will give a concrete example of something that has been discussed theoretically until that point

I should not participate when:

- the discussion has made me angry, and my comment is likely to be inflammatory or defensive
- my comment will take the class off topic

Adapted from https://gustavus.edu/care/support/participation.php