

FYS: Encounters & Identities in Latin America
Noticias Class Discussion

Students:

Grade:

Working with a partner, you will take a leading role in one FYS class session's analysis of current news or media coverage of Latin/Latino America. You will read your classmates' blog posts, choose 2-3 for class discussion, post discussion questions designed to guide your peers in their consideration of the *Noticias* readings, and moderate our class discussions of the readings' significance, wider implications, and links to course themes.

The best discussion facilitators will: demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of the texts; raise questions that encourage the class' consideration of the readings' arguments, uses of evidence, and wider implications; demonstrate critical thinking skills in their analysis of the reading's links to the wider course themes; encourage a discussion of the diversities of cultures and the varieties of historical experience; and employ effective oral communication skills in their management of the class discussion.

Criteria for Evaluation

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Preparation	Facilitators show some significant gaps in understanding the readings; unprepared.	Demonstrates general understanding of the readings; may show evidence of some gaps in comprehension / preparation.	Solid understanding of the readings; may miss some nuances of meaning. Well prepared and on time.	Thorough understanding of the readings -- facilitators show a depth of insight and careful preparation.
Quality of Discussion Questions	Questions need more work; topic covered inadequately.	Some good questions, but may need more in-depth questions and/or an increase in the number of questions to effectively cover the topic.	Very good choice of questions. Key points are highlighted; topic is covered well.	Insightful, appropriate, and in-depth questions which lead to a thorough and useful discussion of the topic.
Facilitates Discussion	Facilitators ineffectively engages students. Discussion falls flat due to presenter difficulties. Engagement of classmates was weak.	Facilitators have some difficulty leading the discussion (e.g., no elaboration or minimal opportunity for discussion; allow discussion to remain off-topic) but show at least some skill as facilitators.	Facilitators lead discussion well. May need more follow-up questions, to engage students more, or to engage more students, or to keep discussion on-track.	Facilitators effectively engage students in discussion of topic. Listen well and respond appropriately. Use follow-up questions to expand the discussion. Encourage all students to participate.

Comments