Determination of Points for Discussion Section

Discussion sections – really more of a “lab” than anything else – will be run on the small group format, with work to be completed in groups each day. 10% of your course grade (50 points) will depend upon your participation in section. You are required to do three things.

[1] In each lecture, an exercise (“the Blue & Gold exercises”) will be distributed. You are to complete the B&G exercise and take it to section where your GSI will check to be sure it has been completed. (20 points possible)

You receive 1 point per day for this activity, based on attempt not on accuracy. The maximum number of points you can receive for activity #1 over the term is 20, although 24 points will be available.

[2] Twice during the term, you and two partners will make an oral presentation. The presentations will be made in groups of 3 that are determined in section. The first presentation will be based on an article in the reader. The second presentation will be based on an article you and your partners select. (10 points possible)

First presentation: Using one of the reader articles, you and your partners should briefly summarize the article, answer the (b) discussion question, and start the entire-class conversation on the (c) question associated with the article. Total presentation time: no more than 5 minutes. (4 points possible)

Second presentation: Based on a news article you and your partners locate, in your oral presentation, your group will summarize the article, state the link between the article and what we are covering in Economics 1, and lead your classmates in a brief discussion of two questions that you have written. At least one of your questions must be an exam-like question.

The article can not be taken from the reader, nor can it be an article Prof. Olney mailed to the class (unless you were the one who first mailed it to Prof. Olney. She credits the student who suggested the article when she sends it on to the whole class.) The article needs to be pertinent to the material covered within 2 weeks of your presentation. The article itself should have been published sometime in the last 12 months.

At least 5 days before your presentation, you must email your GSI a link to the article and two discussion questions. Your GSI may offer you suggestions for changing the article or editing the questions. The final selection of the article and two discussion questions must be made available to your classmates at least 48 hours before section. (Your GSI will tell you where to post.) Missing either of these deadlines will cost you points.

Time allotted for the second presentation and discussion period will be 8 minutes total. Your presentation of the article should take no more than 2 minutes. The rest of the time you will be coordinating the discussion. You will be graded on your ability to engage your classmates in a discussion as well as on the connection to and relevancy of the article to concepts covered in our class. (6 points possible)

You receive up to 4 points for the first presentation and up to 6 points for the second. A grading rubric is on the course website. In addition, you must provide your GSI with a confidential evaluation of your own and your partners’ contributions to the assignment in which you answer these questions: “Do each of you deserve the same number of points for this assignment? If not, why not?”

[3] Each section, you will do small-group work on problems ("the section exercises") and/or reader questions. You may need to complete a pre-section assignment. Your GSI will provide more information in section. (20 points possible)

You receive 1 point per day for taking part in this activity and contributing to your group’s success. The maximum number of points you can receive for activity #3 over the term is 20, although 24 points will be available.