Sample good analyses of participation in the course, in answer to this Take-Away question, about 3 weeks into the semester:

How would you grade your participation this week, and why? Take EVERYTHING into account: the thinking and listening you did in class, your reading and writing of Forum posts, the ideas you shared in the Forum and in class.

NB: This exercises is a mini-version of the reflective mid-term analyses of your contributions, due twice this semester.

These responses are good because the writers...

- attributed to the work a specific grade.
- offered clear analysis of the work represented by the grade.
- provided thorough information, responding to each aspect of the question.

I would probably give myself a B. I try to really talk in class, but I tend to only speak when I have a big point I want to make. The times I have spoken, though, always led us into the next topic. With the forum posts, I feel like I try to bring out topics that the other people in my group may not have thought about. I like to build on what they say, but I also like to put a little twist on it.

I would give myself an A-. I prepare for class, completing all the reading, then reflecting on it through the guiding questions. In class, I listen to my colleagues carefully. But I believe I could listen even more carefully, resisting the urge to "hold" on to what I want to say so that I can better receive the thoughts and ideas of others.

I would give myself a B+. I've done a lot of critical listening and thinking, but haven't contributed as much in class as I would like to (outside of small group discussions). Also, I tend to get flustered when speaking so I don't think I've articulated my thoughts as well as I could have. I've enjoyed writing the Forum posts and I think mine have added fresh insight.

I would give myself a B+/A- because I have spoken up in class when I've had an idea or thought, despite my often insecurity, especially when I tend to compare my ideas to others'. I would like to challenge myself to be more analytical in my reading, because while I can recall quotes fairly well, I need to make connections in my head. I thought deeply about my initial Forum post this week and even intended to take a different position at the start, but then my idea morphed in the process of writing it into my current stance.

I think I improved quite a bit this week in participation. I'd give myself an A-, because I did much better in sharing my ideas with others, especially in class. I hope that I'm slowly getting over my intellectual vulnerability. I also spent serious time thinking through my Forum essays before finishing and posting them.

Forum-wise, I would give myself an A-. I do extensive preparation beforehand and I explore ideas as in depth as possible, while thinking about what the other posters have said. Discussion-wise, not so much. I want to offer more; and, though I think I'm a fairly good listener, I want to be able to share ideas and bounce them off of the other students. I would grade my discussion participation B/B+. 