**Sample Rubric for self-assessing participation**

| **Criterion** | **1** | **2-3** | **3-4** | **5** |
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| **Promptness & Initiative** *Contributions are timely, and consistent* | 1 posting, at the beginning or end of the week | 1-2 postings checking in at beginning or end of the week. Responses come several days after discussion | 3+ postings Responds to others' within 24 hours | 3+ postings at different points throughout the week (daily, every other day). Consistently responds to others in 24 hours or less |
| **Relevance** *Contributions respond to the topic(s) at hand and demonstrate understanding from the unit's readings & resources* | Posts don't relate to discussion content or course resources – remarks are short and/or off-topic | Post are mostly off topic, short, and don't tend to offer new insight. Most posts are unrelated to resources | Posts are generally on topic, and prompt further discussion. It's clear that the readings were understood and incorporated into responses | Consistently posts on-topic messages, demonstrates understanding of readings and takes discussion to a deeper level by asking questions or drawing conclusions. Often cites additional (related) references |
| **Learning Community** *Contributions make a positive impact on the Learning Community, and others' learning.* | Posts rarely acknowledge or refer to others' contributions. (posts in a vacuum, does not make effort to participate in learning community as it develops) | Some attempt to acknowledge and respond to others' contributions, though may take the form of "I agree with (person)" and don't go much further.Occasionally makes meaningful reflection on group's efforts; marginal effort to become involved with group | Posts usually acknowledge others' contributions and some attempt is made to advance the discussion.Frequently directs discussion and to present relevant viewpoints for consideration by group; interacts freely | Postings contribute substantially and frequently to others' learning by weaving together ideas and extending them. Asks good questions. Aware of needs of community; frequently attempts to motivate the group discussion; presents creative approaches to topic |