

Check in on Participation Plan

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At the beginning of the semester you wrote a participation plan and posted it to canvas. In this self-assessment, please do the following:

- 1) Review your plan.
- 2) Write a paragraph reflecting on how your plan is going, whether you are moving towards your stated goals, and whether you want to make changes to your plan. If you are not implementing your plan as you had hoped, reflect on why not, and what you can do differently moving forward. “Try harder” is not a good answer here; intention is only one ingredient.
- 3) Turn in your plan and check-in as a single pdf document on Canvas.

Remember, at the end of the course you will do one more self-assessment, and at this point assign yourself a participation grade, which will be part of your overall participation grade. We will provide specific details on this later on, along with our concerns about potential sources of bias due to this process.

Some ideas of how to check in:

In the past, some people have done any of the following:

- 1) Use Microsoft Track Changes, and put comments on their original plan to annotate it. They then turned in a pdf printout of these mark-ups.
- 2) Interleave their reflections with their plan, putting reflections in a different color.
- 3) Wrote a paragraph reflection, ideally also including their original plan at the beginning of the document for reference.

Any of these things are fine! Pick one that seems most useful to you, or do something else. See below for an example of (3) that captures the tenor of this process.

A (real life) example check-in:

Overall, my first two study plan bullets have gone well – I have attended at least half of the live lectures and listened to the section recordings each week. One exception was Fall 1 finals week, when I was not able to keep with everything due to a very long final take-home exam in another course. I do have a good study group, but we haven’t been meeting as much as I hoped – in practice, it’s been difficult for 5 people to coordinate a time that we can all meet and it’s been more ad hoc / only part of the group available. I also haven’t posted on Slack as much as I planned. This is because I feel overwhelmed with coursework and am starting problem sets late in the week – with that time pressure, it becomes very high stress and I spend my time trying to get through the problem set rather than having the time to thoughtfully post questions in advance. Overall, I do feel that I am advancing towards my goals of strengthening my understanding of these concepts, working on practical research

project, and improving my R skills, but I also feel like I'm struggling to keep up due to workload overwhelm in this and other classes and being quite confused by the concepts. Try harder isn't an option – I'm already working seven days a week and mentally very tired, which makes it hard to learn. Specific things I will do differently going forward are: 1) attend at least one office hour a week – I need more structured help. I will try to do this earlier in the week (maybe Wednesday) so that I can get help earlier on assignments. For Project B, I will make a plan to meet with my partner by mid-week to review and have time to ask questions. On a positive note, I do think my final course project engagement (which was not in the plan) has been very good. My partner and I meet at least once a week to discuss / work on it even when we don't have something immediately due.