I am asking you to write a short assessment of your class participation to this point in the term. That is, if class was at an end: **What grade do you think you deserve on class participation and why?** I want us to have a common understanding of participation grades when I assign your final participation grade for the term. Please “grade” your participation on a scale of 100 and think of A’s in the 90s, B’s in the 80s, C’s in the 70’s and so on. Be honest and reflect on your true effort in class. I will consider your self-assessment and respond with my thoughts. This is not a final grade for participation this term because there is still time to make more (or less) contributions in class. If you have not shown a great deal of participation at the class-level (responding to class-wide questions), be sure to explain how I might have noticed your contributions in other ways. Type up your self-assessment and bring it to class on Friday, 11/17. I’m pasting my description of “participation” from our syllabus because this should guide your assessment…

*Meaningful contributions to class discussion:* Although sharing opinions and insights is an important element of active participation in discussion, it is not the only one. Active participation also includes carefully **preparing** before class, **asking** a question that clarifies another discussant’s point or takes the discussion in a productive direction, **providing evidence** from the text(s) that supports or calls into question an assertion made by me or a classmate and **active listening** (body language is important here). I remind you that **asking questions** based on your readings is a valuable part of class participation. I hope we create a level of **respect and trust** that allows us to challenge one another and raise the level of critical thinking. Any activity that enhances that kind of atmosphere is an important element of active participation and activities that undermine it will be strongly penalized. Having said that, I **do** want to hear you talk!