**ACADEMIC DISCUSSION Rubric**

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|  | **4 Exemplary** | **3 Proficient** | **2 Not Quite There** | **1 Developing** |
| Analysis  and  Reasoning | Frequently contributes meaningfully to discussion.  Uses specific references to the text or film to support reasoning.  Initiates new ideas and/or poses thought-provoking questions.  Explains ideas clearly and thoroughly.  Moves the discussion to a deeper level. | Occasionally contributes to the discussion with relevant comments.  Refers to the text or film in general ways.  Attempts to explain ideas.  Poses and responds to questions. | Rarely contributes to discussion.  Shows little evidence of knowledge of the text or film.  Makes tangential remarks (chasing rabbits) that show little reflection on topic or text.  Comments but fails to explain ideas. | Makes little or no contribution to discussion.  Shows no evidence of knowledge of text or film. |
| Discussion  Skills | Speaks loudly and clearly.  Stays on topic and brings discussion back on topic if necessary, and synthesizes conversation.  Builds on another’s point, expanding idea or challenging another’s idea.  Makes direct references to points made by other students.  Includes others through verbal exchange or invitation to conversation.  Comes to discussion thoroughly prepared. | Speaks at an appropriate level to be heard.  Stays on topic and focused on discussion.  Refers to another’s point but does not build on idea.  Comes to discussion prepared. | Speaks in a voice that’s hard for everyone in room to hear.  Becomes involved sporadically and/or sometimes strays from the topic.  May occasionally dominate the conversation, and/or may sometimes interrupt.  Lack of preparation is obvious. | Speaks off topic.  Shows uninvolved attitude.  Interrupts when others speak and/or dominates conversation.  Shows no preparation for discussion. |
| Civility  and  Polish | Pays attention when others speak, making eye contact with speaker and waiting turn to speak.  Addresses others in civil manner, using a collegial and friendly tone.  Uses formal English. | Pays attention when others speak.  Uses appropriate language and tone.  Uses formal English with only occasional slips. | Mostly pays attention but may occasionally be distracted or not “tuned in” to conversation.  Struggles to use formal English. | Does not pay attention to others.  Attempts to obstruct the discussion process.  Uses aggressive, threatening, or inappropriate tone.  Speaks in slang and/or uses incorrect English. |