



## ENGAGING IN THE POLITICAL WORLD: POLITICAL PARTICIPATION PORTFOLIO

Point Breakdown: 25 Points Total

Political participation among today's young people is low compared to other age groups. In addition, one of the goals of this class is for students to apply what they learn in the classroom to their own political experience. As such, part of your grade will consist of actually participating in politics.

There are several venues available for political participation, ranging from the very easy to the not-so-easy. Since acts of political participation vary in terms of the effort they require, the points earned from participating in a particular act will vary as well.

Your goal is to compile a "portfolio" of political participation by selecting activities from the menu below. Please note that each activity must be completed during this academic semester.

Each portfolio must include the following (please do not use binders – stapled sheets of paper are just fine):

1. cover sheet (preferably white paper) with your name, date, and title (Political Participation Portfolio)
2. table of contents listing each activity and the appropriate point total
3. a variety of specific activities that add up to 25 points (see menu below) (Your point total may exceed 25 points (but may not exceed 30 points as submitted) but you are only eligible to receive 25 points total.)  
**WITH**
4. appropriate evidence of participating in each activity<sup>1</sup> **AND**
5. a brief analysis describing and analyzing *each* activity (see below for further instructions)

This will be an ongoing project - your progress will be monitored throughout the class through proposed schedules, drafts, and progress reports.

You will be eligible to receive up to 25 points towards your course grade, based on the quality and depth of your portfolio. To earn full credit, be sure to include all of the above items, providing details, examples, and evaluation where appropriate. Portfolios that lack a table of contents, evidence, and/or insightful analysis sheets that link the activity to the course will not receive full credit.

**\*A hard copy of the portfolio is due in class on the date listed on the syllabus.\***

---

<sup>1</sup> Be creative! Include visual aids, stickers, pictures, brochures, flyers, etc, to make the portfolio appealing and fun. For instance, if you attend an event, attach a flyer, a parking voucher, or a picture of you there. If you watch the State of the Union, have your roommate take a picture of you doing so. Questions? Just see me.

**Menu of Possible Participation Activities**

<b>Participation Activity</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
Register to Vote (or vote if the opportunity arises)	5 Points
Sign a Petition (NOT an internet petition and only one per portfolio)	5 Points
Contact an Elected Official (by letter or email)	5 Points
Write a Letter to the Editor of a Newspaper	5 Points
Review City Council Minutes Online	5 Points
Watch a Government Meeting via TV or Webcast (Tune in to C-Span on TV, C-Span online, or your hometown's city website)	5 Points
Loan money via <a href="http://www.kiva.org">www.kiva.org</a> (this organization will be discussed in the 14 <sup>th</sup> week of the semester)	5 Points
Watch the State of the Union (live or on the White House website)	5 Points
Join the Campus Republicans or College Democrats	5 Points
Start a Facebook political group (i.e. "Lomans for Prop 9") and invite your friends to join	5 Points
Attend an on-campus or campus-sponsored event, such as a speaker, a forum, a panel, or an event. It must in some way be <i>political</i> .	7.5 Points
Attend a Rally/Public Speech for an Official, Candidate, or Group	10 Points
Attend a Government Meeting (i.e. City Council)	10 Points
Attend a Political Party Meeting	10 Points
Attend an Interest Group Meeting	10 Points
Volunteer for a Voter Registration Drive	10 Points
Volunteer for a Political Organization	10 Points
Volunteer for a Political Campaign	10 Points
Volunteer for an Interest Group	10 Points
Volunteer for a Political Action Committee	10 Points
Volunteer to Raise Money for a Political Cause	10 Points
Visit and Discuss an Issue with an Elected Official	15 Points
Volunteer as a Poll Worker on Election Day	15 Points
Participate in a Protest, March, or Demonstration	15 Points
Open Choice (Got an idea that's not on the list? See me! I only ask that your act be <i>political</i> in some way. It should be a voluntary, non-academic act that has you <i>actively</i> involved in the public arena. Please see me for approval if you are doing "open choice.")	Negotiable

**\*\*NOTES\*\***

- 1. Need help getting started? Try <http://www.sandiego.gov/> for ideas.**
- 2. You must complete at least 2 hours of participation for all attendance, volunteer, and protest activities.**
- 3. Activities must be completed during this academic semester (not before and not after).**

### Format for Analyses

1. Each activity should have its own analysis sheet
2. Each analysis should be: 2 pages typed, 12 point font, double-spaced, normal 1 inch margins
3. A description of the act of participation – what was it specifically? (not a one-word label...provide details of who, what, when, how, and why)
4. A description of how you located this activity.
5. What was your opinion of the activity? Did you enjoy it? Why or why not? What did you learn as a result of participating in the activity? Would you do it again? Why or why not? Did it change your perspective?
6. A *clear connection* of the act of participation to the course material. What concepts or terms did this act of participation illustrate? Explain. Did engaging in the act help clarify a course idea or subject? Why or why not? *This step is important* – you will not earn the full amount of points listed on the menu above if you don't write an articulate, course-related analysis for each act of participation. In other words, it's not enough to just do the activity – you need to illustrate for me how it relates to political science more generally. Be sure to make the connections between the activity and the course *explicit*.
7. Recommendations, advice, and/or tips for others. In other words, if you had to advise someone about participating in this activity, what kind of information would you provide them?
8. Finally, while the analyses should be reflective and personal, they will still be held to a college-level standard of writing (articulate, free of grammatical errors, insightful, and well-organized). Try to avoid a conversational tone.

