

A musing on *Thinking about Teaching - Further thoughts on class participation*, by Rickie Sanders (in Herald 46:1)

I enjoyed reading your article about student participation in the Faculty Herald. You welcomed responses and I would like to share an approach to assessing participation that I have found successful. In Dance, participation has probably always been an essential assessment category, as dance requires embodied presence in class. In the Dance Gen Ed course "Embodying Pluralism" and several dance major courses (including pedagogy and theory courses), I have explored creating participation rubrics with the students. Students understand criteria for quality participation and when they collectively contribute to rubric construction, accountability for participation, in my experience, rises.

I often start the rubric making session by quoting from Robert Pirsig's (1974) **Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance**: "What is good, Phaedrus, and what is not good? Need we ask anyone to tell us these things?"

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