Discussion rubric - **Figure 1. Graded Spider Web Discussion Rubric**

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| Because this is a team effort, there will be a team grade. The whole class will get the SAME grade. The following list indicates what you need to accomplish, as a class, to earn an A.Have a truly hard-working, analytical discussion that includes these factors. |
| 1. Everyone has participated in a meaningful and substantive way and, more or less, equally. |
| 2. A sense of balance and order prevails; focus is on one speaker at a time and one idea at a time. The discussion is lively, and the pace is right (not hyper or boring). |
| 3. The discussion builds and there is an attempt to resolve questions and issues before moving on to new ones. Big ideas and deep insights are not brushed over or missed. |
| 4. Comments are not lost, the loud or verbose students do not dominate, the shy and quiet students are encouraged. |
| 5. Students listen carefully and respectfully to one another. For example, no one talks, daydreams, rustles papers, makes faces, or uses phones or laptops when someone else is speaking because this communicates disrespect and undermines the discussion as a whole. Also, no one gives sarcastic or glib comments. |
| 6. Everyone is clearly understood. Any comments that are not heard or understood are urged to be repeated. |
| 7. Students take risks and dig for deep meaning, new insights. |
| 8. Students back up what they say with examples and quotations regularly throughout the discussion. Dialectical Journals and/or the text are read from out loud OFTEN to support arguments. |
| 9. Literary features/writing style and class vocabulary are given special attention and mention. There is at least one literary feature AND one new vocabulary word used correctly in each discussion. |
| The class earns an A by doing all these items at an impressively high level. (Rare and difficult!)The class earns a B by doing most things on this list. (A pretty good discussion.)The class earns a C for doing half or slightly more than half of what's on this list.The class earns a D by doing less than half of what's on the list.The class earns an F if the discussion is a real mess or a complete dud and virtually nothing on this list is accomplished or genuinely attempted.Unprepared or unwilling students will bring the group down as a whole. Please remember this as you read and take notes on the assignment and prepare for class discussion. |
| Source: Wiggins, A. (2017). [The best class you never taught: How spider web discussion can turn students into learning leaders](http://www.ascd.org/Publications/Books/Overview/The-Best-Class-You-Never-Taught.aspx). Alexandria, VA: ASCD. |