

PARTICIPATION DURING A REMOTE TERM



Participating in a remote class will look different from an in-person class. A remote term might make some avenues of participation more difficult, but it can also open up new avenues of participation. Take advantage of these different modes of participation to get the most out of the remote class.

Know how you can participate.

Depending on your professor, your class might have different avenues of participation. A synchronous class might have options such as the Zoom chat or "raising a hand" to speak like in a normal classroom, while asynchronous classes might rely more on canvas discussions or other learning platforms. Make sure you know your options for participation, and which avenues your professor prefers his or her students to use.



Synchronous Participation

Speaking out during a remote class can seem daunting and a bit awkward until everyone gets used to the new class format. Everyone has different comfort levels when participating in class, and different avenues could help accommodate these different comfort levels (read about the "Fear of Speaking Out" [here](#)). Below are a few ways Zoom facilitates these interactions.

Raise your Hand

Use the "raise hand" button on Zoom to indicate that you have something to say. This makes it easier for both your Professor and your peers to know that you have something to say and can make the discussion flow smoother. You can keep track of everyone who has their "hands raised" by looking at the list of participants.

Use the online chat function

You can use the chat function on Zoom to ask questions or to comment on what someone else has said. The chat function makes it easier to share articles or videos that you might be referencing in your discussion, and can also be a less daunting way to participate for some.

React

Zoom also allows you to react to others. You can "react" as encouragement or agreement with your peers, or as an easy way to answer some of your professor's yes-or-no questions that are directed to the entire class.



Asynchronous Participation

Asynchronous Learning Platforms

For asynchronous classes, participation is all the more important. Professors might use platforms such as Canvas discussions, Voice Thread, or a Google Doc. Make sure you voice your opinions, comments, and questions through the provided avenues of participation. Immediately notify your professor if you are not able to access those avenues for any reason.

Office Hours

Even if your class is asynchronous, know that you can (and should) still interact directly with your professor or TAs. You can still send an email or attend a Zoom office hour hosted by your professor or TAs.



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