

Forum replies to Presenters: Suggestions

Hi everyone,

You may be wondering how to reply to the presentations and other posts of your class colleagues.

- What does a strong effective reply look like?
- Is it different than replying to the kinds of forum posts and questions posted by the professor? Yes, but not radically.

Your rule of thumb is that this is an opportunity to engage with a colleague who has wrestled with the same passage in the course text that you have. Here are some suggestions:

- General thanks: Is the presentation a good overall product? If so, it's courteous and encouraging to say so. You can point out that they have clearly explained a couple of ideas you had struggled with or thought about as you read, the way they organized the ideas, or some very thoughtful interactive idea they came up with, etc.
- Questions you had when you read the chapter or book: Remember you are replying to the presenters, but also to the passage in the text on your own. You can raise a question you had and ask what the presenters, or other class members, think about it--how they might answer it.
- Key ideas that stood out to you in the chapters: Identify one or two ideas that really stood out to you, takeaway ideas, and ask what the presenters think about your own views or questions on them.
- Interactive comments by the presenters where they pick out things they like/dislike, agree/disagree with in the article: These are prime ideas for you to comment on. You can agree with the presenters, or tell them you see it differently, or even say you haven't thought about it that way and thank them for raising it. If it raised other questions for you, then you could ask those. Respectful push back is always welcome here, in fact encouraged, since it often leads to better or clearer thinking.
- Your own interaction with the article. Then you can query the presenter as to whether they see things differently than you have just laid out.

Note: these are just a few suggestions to get you started. You don't need to use all of them and are most welcome to use other approaches as well. The goal is thoughtful interaction and gracious challenge to develop each other's thinking.

Thanks and happy interacting!

Paul