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How can you encourage students to do required readings in preparation for class discussions? | December 7, 2018

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## Encouraging Participation and Engagement: Weekly Admission Tickets

**Idea:** to track participation, engagement and interests

**Rationale:** ensures engagement, attendance and is good practice for preparing thesis statements and original research essays

**Assignment:** 150 word questions, submitted weekly

### *Sample Assignment from Winter 2018 HIST 203 (Canada post-1867) syllabus*

Each Wednesday, you will submit an “Admission Ticket” on which you have written a question (on your own paper) about the assigned readings. The instructor and TA for the course will read all of these tickets for the purposes of confirming attendance and class preparation. Tickets must be submitted in-person at the beginning of class. Your ticket must include your name, ID #, and a clearly written question and will be graded on the basis of the originality, clarity and depth of your question and your engagement with the reading. Each ticket is worth 2% of your final grade, reflecting a combination of a) doing the preparatory reading(s) and b) the quality of the reflection / question. Basic factual questions e.g. “In what year did the Halifax Explosion occur?” are not acceptable. For top marks, a question will cite the readings and provide context as well as an intervention. E.g. “In James Daschuk’s reading, he makes a distinction between government policies vis-à-vis Indigenous peoples in the pre-and post-Confederation period. My question is whether this distinction disguises a continuity in approach?” (30 words) Maximum 150 words each.

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