



RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION - BUT HOW?

This is all well and good, you might think: But how shall I participate actively in a seminar? Here, we have got some ideas for you:

Ask questions if there is something you didn't understand!

If you have difficulties in understanding a lesson, do not hesitate to ask questions. Often it may seem as if everybody else has understood a topic, but you can count on the fact that many of your fellow students have the same difficulties as you. By posing questions, you do not only do something to remedy your own boredom or confusion, but at the same time you help others who would also like to get a better insight into the same topic.

Take over a task!

In many courses, there is an "official" way to contribute something to the content: by giving a presentation or a summary, or even by organizing a seminar session. You should take such a chance in any case, for it is always a means to learn a lot and simultaneously have an influence on the next seminar session, which is in your interest. Even if it takes an effort and might be a real challenge in many cases: Try to see such occasions as a training ground which helps you develop your own competences a great deal further.

Find the aspects that interest you most about a topic!

A topic becomes interesting when it has got to do something with your personal and everyday life. Why does it make sense for you personally to deal with this topic? Why is it worth understanding difficult and complex facts that are being dealt with in the seminar? If you can manage to classify the topic as belonging to a larger context of meaning for yourself, it will become easier for you to deal with it!

Take part in a seminar discussion!

Set the goal for yourself to take part in the next seminar discussion. As soon as you do that, you will be activated in any case – unless you don't care at all what the teacher and your fellow students think about you. It can also help to tell yourself to at least say something once in every seminar discussion – this way, you will stay on top of the contents and don't get bored too easily.

Talk to your teacher about your opinions!

Your teachers depend on feedback from their students – therefore, it makes sense to openly discuss new ideas and suggestions for improvement. So always ask if the teacher is interested in a feedback for the seminar. You should formulate your suggestions in a constructive way: Which part of the seminar is already a success in your opinion? Which kind of atmosphere would you like to have in a seminar? Which possibilities for student participation are there according to you? What could be the students' contribution to a successful learning environment? This way, you develop new ideas together, which can improve the learning process!