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# The U.S. Classroom 101

— A Guide for International  
Students —

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# Classroom Participation

## Perception

- Fear of interrupting professors
- Worried about their accent
- Need time to adjust to the American accent, rate of speech, and pronunciation



## Reality

- The professors encourage classroom participation!
- Professor's understand if you have questions and opinions
- Participating in class can also help build English speaking skills

# Grading System

## Perception

- Tests are the only assignments graded
- Grading includes numbering, scales, percentages, and letter grades

## Reality

- Grade Point Average (GPA) is a scale from .001 (lowest) to 4.00 (highest)
- The GPA is based off of grades that are given in class (A-4.0, B-3.0, C-2.0, D-1.0, and F-0.0)
- Tutoring services



# Group Projects

## Perception

- It's difficult to join a group for class with American peers
- Speaking American English is harder than writing English

## Reality

- Beneficial to work in a group
- Allows you to practice voicing your thoughts and opinions



# Office Hours

## Perception

- Do not have a chance to interact with professors
- Ask peers for questions or concerns in the classroom



## Reality

- Professors hold office hours outside of regular class hours
- Encouraged to communicate with professors
  - Gives a chance for professors to get to know you
  - Can give you a Letter of Recommendation for graduate school or job after graduating
- Teaching Assistants (TA's) are also available

# Plagiarism

## Perception

- Give respect to the author
- Work together for homework, tests, and other assignments

## Reality

- Plagiarism is a serious offense in the U.S. classroom
- Copying someone on a test, homework, or assignment can result in an F and affect your GPA



# USC is here to support you!

Do not hesitate to use resources on campus! Watch our student services video for a list of services on campus. Or visit:

Student Services

<https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/>

Office of International Students

<https://ois.usc.edu/>

USC International Student Assembly

<https://www.isaofusc.com/>



# References

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