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/

