Participation Sheet Instruction

A large portion of your grade depends on your class participation. Class participation is demonstrated both by your contribution to the class discussion and by your preparation for the discussion. You participation sheet is one way of me to keep track of your participation.

Write the assignment number on the top of the page.

The participation sheet consists of three components:
1. Your summary of the reading assignment.
2. At least one question from the reading.
3. Your synthesis of the classroom discussion.

Here is how to come up with each of these components:

Summary
1. Read the assignment, and take notes.
2. Think about the reading. What is the most important point?
3. Write the summary by starting with the most important point. Flush out the summary with a general description of the other major points. There is no need to fill in all the details, and so you should not need to reread the assignment at this time. However, you may wish to refer to the assignment if you have difficulty remembering certain points.

Question
1. As you write your summary, think about discussing the material with your classmates. What questions would you like to hear discussed?
2. Are there points that you find confusing?
3. Write down at least one question that can spark a discussion. Typically these questions are conceptual and not factual.

Synthesis
1. Come to class prepared for a serious discussion with your classmates. (You’ll need your book and calculator.)
2. Participate in the discussion. This does not necessarily mean that you are talking nonstop. It means that you are thinking and are engaged for the whole discussion.
3. At the end of the period, you will be giving time to write down your thoughts after the discussion. Show that you learned something from the discussion.
4. Do NOT sleep in class.