

Socratic Seminar Guidelines

We are courteous.

We focus on the common text.

We listen to one another.

We share our point of view.

We refer to the text.

We speak when no one else is speaking.

We avoid sarcasm or "put downs."

We learn together.

Dialogue Versus Debate

Dialogue is...	Debate is...
collaborative	oppositional
About understanding	About proving others wrong
Listening for deeper meaning	Listening for flaws
Re-evaluating assumptions	Defending assumptions
Keeping an open mind	Close-minded
About temporarily suspending beliefs	About defending beliefs
Searching for strength or validity in all ideas	Searching for weakness in ideas
About respecting all participants	About belittling or demeaning others
Exploring different possibilities	Having one right answer
Open-ended	Demands a conclusion

Before a Socratic Seminar:

1. Circle any vocabulary words that are unfamiliar to you or you would have difficulty explaining to others.
2. Underline key phrases.
3. Keep track of the story, article, document, or idea as it unfolds.
4. Note word patterns and repetitions or anything that strikes you as confusing or important.
5. Write questions you have about the text in the margin.

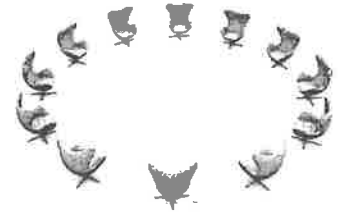
Socratic Seminar Rubric #1

Seminar Skills	4	3	2	1
Questioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has prepared several high level questions based on the text. Asks several higher level questions during the seminar. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has prepared mostly lower level questions. Asks some questions during the seminar. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared very few questions, if any. Asks very few questions, if any. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has not prepared questions. Does not ask questions.
Speaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moves the conversation forward. Speaks to all participants. Thinks before answering. Refers directly to the text. Makes connections to other speakers. Considers all opinions. Offers insightful contributions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments often, but does not lead others. Addresses only the teacher. Refers to the text, but not to subtle points. Responds to questions. Considers some opinions. Offers interesting ideas, not necessarily connected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasizes only own ideas. Addresses only the teacher. Tends toward debate not dialogue. Ideas do not always connect. Comments neglect details of text. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disruptive, argumentative. Mumbles or is silent. No connection to previous comment.
Listening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates effective listening skills (eye contact, nods, takes notes) Writes down thoughts and questions. Builds on others' comments. Asks for clarification when needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May have some eye contact with speaker. Takes some notes. Ignores others' comments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rarely demonstrates effective listening skills (eye contact, nods, taking notes) Loses track of conversation Judges others' ideas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No effective listening skills demonstrated. Attempts to dominate. Interrupts speakers in middle of sentence. Repeats same ideas.
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies / highlights key words and phrases. Has notes of main ideas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies / highlights some key words and phrases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No highlighting Skims the text. Very few notes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unprepared, unfamiliar with text.

Name: _____

Date: _____

My Discussion Goal:



Explain how this discussion influenced your thinking:

Were you able to reach your Discussion Goal?
Why or why not?

Identify the most important part of the text and tell why:

Name _____ Date _____

Socratic Seminar Discussion Debrief

MY GOAL: _____

1. What was the best point made during the seminar?
2. What ideas did you agree with?
3. What ideas did you disagree with?
4. What questions were left unanswered?
5. What did you contribute to the discussion?
6. What do you wish you had said during the discussion?
7. What did you learn during the seminar that you didn't know or weren't clear about before the seminar?
8. What is your overall evaluation of the seminar?

