

Name:

Teacher:

Class:

Date:

SOCRATIC



Seminar

The purpose of a **Socratic Seminar** is to achieve a deeper understanding about the ideas and values in a text. In the Seminar, participants question and examine issues, and articulate different points-of-view. Good discussions occur when participants study the text closely in advance, listen actively, share their ideas and questions in response to the ideas and questions of others, and search for evidence in the text to support their ideas. The discussion is not about right answers; it is not a debate.

Learning Target I will be able to _____ in a _____ by coming _____ - having read the assigned materials, _____ from the text, _____ on others' _____, and _____ my own _____ clearly and persuasively.

Rules For Participation

1. Be courteous. No put-downs or sarcasm.
2. Allow each speaker enough time to begin and finish his or her thoughts – don't interrupt.
3. Involve others in the discussion and ask others to elaborate on their responses.
4. Build on what others say: ask questions, re-state and add, clarify.
5. Use your best active listening skills: nod, make eye contact, provide feedback, and listen carefully to others.
6. Remember the goal is **EXPLORATION** – keep an open mind and push for deeper and deeper interpretations.

Proper Discussion Responses

Expressing an Opinion

I think... I believe... In my opinion... It seems to me that... In the text it states...

Agreeing

I agree with...but would like to add...

Disagreeing

I disagree with...and would like to add...

Soliciting a Response

Do you agree _____? What do you think _____?

Asking For Clarification

Could you repeat what you said? Could you say more about that? Could you give an example of that?

SELF Evaluation

Characteristics Of An **Effective** Participant in a Socratic Seminar

- Come prepared
- Contribute ideas readily
- Ask questions...of one another
- Make personal connections
- Add to what others' say
- Don't interrupt one another
- Listen actively
- Are open-minded and respectful
- Are willing to use the discussion to explore ideas not just to get to "an answer"

Discussion date: _____ **Period:** _____

Discussion Focus: _____

1. Which of the above characteristics (or others) did I demonstrate during this discussion that helped make it a productive discussion?

2. Which characteristics did I **NOT** display that might have inhibited the discussion?

GRADING Rubric

Socratic Seminar	8 Stellar	7 Good	6 Adequate	5 Inadequate
Participation in Discussion – You asked questions and provided answers/opinions				
Thoughtfulness of Comments – You referenced back to the text to support your responses				
Proper Responses – You used proper response stems at the beginning of your answers				
Respectful – You listened actively, remained open-minded, and didn't interrupt other participants				

Total

/32 pts