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Socratic Seminar Guidelines and Rubric

Guidelines for Participating

- Come prepared. Bring notes and info that is relevant to the discussion.
- Participate, participate, participate!
- Back up your comments with evidence/ facts.
- Try to comment on someone else's previous statement before you give yours.
- Personal stories should have a direct connection to the facts.
- Keep discussion alive by asking open-ended, thought-provoking questions.
- Disagree with comments, not individuals. NEVER put anyone down.
- Use your speaking time fairly (contribute but do not control).

Socratic Seminar Rubric

	5	4	3	2	Total		
Conduct	*Patient with differing opinions. *Asks for clarification. *Brings others into the dialogue. *Very focused on the dialogue.	*Respectful. *Comments, but does not attempt to involve others. *Generally focused.	*Participates but shows impatience. *Some focus. *Engages in "sidebar" conversations.	*Disrespectful. *Argumentative. *Does not participate.			
Speaking	*Speaks to all participants. *Articulate. *Takes a leadership role without monopolizing the discussion.	*Speaks to most participants. *Attempts to move on to new ideas. *Tends to "ramble on" after making a point.	*Speaks too softly. *Needs prompting to get involved. *Has no sustainable point; uses "sound bites." *Monopolizes the discussion.	*Reluctant to speak. *Comments do not support point.			
Reasoning	*Cites relevant text. *Relates topic to outside knowledge and other topics. *Makes connections between own thoughts and others'. *Willing to take an alternate viewpoint. *Asks questions to further dialogue.	*Makes limited connections to others' ideas. *Some intriguing points that merit reaction. *Some references to text.	*Accurate on minor points, but misses the main point. *No textual support; "talking of the top of your head." *Refuses to acknowledge alternate viewpoints.	*Illogical comments. *Ignores the movement of the seminar.			
Listening	*Writes down comments, questions, ideas. *Builds on other's ideas & gives others credit.	*Generally attentive and focused. *Responds thoughtfully. *Takes <i>some</i> notes.	*Appears disconnected. *Takes limited notes.	*Inattentive. *Comments show lack of understanding. *Takes no notes.			
Reading/ Preparation	*Familiar with text. *Understands major concepts. *Writing assignment completed on time. *Was well prepared in small discussion groups.	*Fairly familiar with text. *Asks for references. *Writing assignment completed on time. *Was mostly prepared in small discussion groups	*Confused with key concepts of text. *Writing assignment may be completed on time. *Occasionally prepared in small discussion groups.	*Unfamiliar with text. *Writing assignment completed but not on time. *Very much unprepared in small discussion groups.			
Total:							