

Socratic Seminar~

Guidelines for Participants in a Socratic Seminar

1. Refer to the text when needed during the discussion. A seminar is not a test of memory. You are not "learning a subject"; your goal is to understand the ideas, issues, and values reflected in the text.
2. It's OK to "pass" when asked to contribute.
3. Do not participate if you are not prepared. A seminar should not be a bull session.
4. Do not stay confused; ask for clarification.
5. Stick to the point currently under discussion; make notes about ideas you want to come back to.
6. Don't raise hands; take turns speaking.
7. Listen carefully.
8. Speak up so that all can hear you.
9. Talk to each other, not just to the leader or teacher.
10. Discuss ideas rather than each other's opinions
11. You are responsible for the seminar, even if you don't know it or admit it.

A LEVEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Participant offers enough solid analysis, without prompting, to move the conversation forward ○ Participant, through her comments, demonstrates a deep knowledge of the text and the question ○ Participant has come to the seminar prepared, with notes and a marked/annotated text ○ Participant, through her comments, shows that she is actively listening to other participants ○ Participant offers clarification and/or follow-up that extends the conversation ○ Participant's remarks often refer back to specific parts of the text.
B LEVEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Participant offers solid analysis without prompting ○ Through comments, participant demonstrates a good knowledge of the text and the question ○ Participant has come to the seminar prepared, with notes and a marked/annotated text ○ Participant shows that he/she is actively listening to others and offers clarification and/or follow-up
C LEVEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Participant offers some analysis, but needs prompting from the seminar leader ○ Through comments, participant demonstrates a general knowledge of the text and question ○ Participant is less prepared, with few notes and no marked/annotated text ○ Participant is actively listening to others, but does not offer clarification and/or follow-up to others' comments ○ Participant relies more upon his or her opinion, and less on the text to drive her comments
D or F LEVEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Participant offers little commentary ○ Participant comes to the seminar ill-prepared with little understanding of the text and question ○ Participant does not listen to others, offers no commentary to further the discussion ○ Participant distracts the group by interrupting other speakers or by offering off topic questions and comments. ○ Participant ignores the discussion and its participants