

## **Socratic Seminar Lesson Plan**

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### **Before the seminar (1 or 2 days)**

Go over seminar rules of conduct

Provide mini lesson on the differences between the seminar and a debate.

Explain Grading Procedures.

Provide examples of appropriate responses.

Explain and provide examples of level 3 questions.

Have students create level 3 questions for use in the seminar.

Choose the number of questions needed for the 2 day seminar based on the number of students that will be part of the inner circle on each day.

Type the questions on strips and label each with the day and order in which you want the subject of the question addressed. (ex. Day 1 Question 1)

### **1 Day Before the Seminar:**

Place the question strips in a container that will allow students to choose a question from the container without seeing the words.

Using the provided record of question assignments, record the day and question number that each student chooses.

Provide time in class for the students to answer their questions and provide evidence from the text for their responses. (Remind them that they will also be responding to answers given on their day in the inner circle. They will need to be familiar with those questions as well.)

(You can assign a daily grade for question prep based on student involvement of the task)

### **Day 1 of the Seminar:**

Arrange the desks or chairs in an inner circle and outer circle. (Make sure you seat yourself where you can easily see and hear who is responding and what they are saying.)

As the students enter class instruct those who have questions for day 1 to seat themselves in the inner circle, and those who have day 2 questions to find a seat in the outer circle.

Remind all students about the scoring of responses for the final grade for the seminar.

Students may be shy and unwilling to speak and share answers. (DO NOT SPEAK OR SHARE IDEAS IN AN ATTEMPT TO GET THEM TO RESPOND. THE QUIET WILL BE PAINFUL, BUT THE RESULTS WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCE OF NOT PARTICIPATING)

As students answer record their participation on the scoring sheet using the icons provided. Make sure that you record each time a student in the inner circle responds both to his or her question and to the answers others provide.

Students in the outer circle should be recording notes from the discussion of the inner circle responses. (As a debrief after the seminar have students share their notes from the outer circle which allows for deeper understanding. It also relieves the stress the outer circle students experience when they cannot offer their opinions.

**Day 2 of the Seminar:**

Follow the same directions as for Day 1 changing the students in the inner circle.

After the seminar:

Tally all of the points each student earned during inner circle. (Answering their question and a minimum of 3 other responses allow for a minimum grade for the inner circle. (70% of 50 points) The other points for the seminar come from the outer circle paperwork. (50 points)