

Socratic Seminar Discussion Handouts
 Preparing for a REMOTE LEARNING Socratic Seminar

Title of Text:

- 1. Text Analysis:** Examine the entire text without stopping to determine what the text is about. Approach the text as if someone you really respected created it.

This text is about:

Annotate Text: Re-examine, annotate and mark up the text by underlining the main/most important points and comment on these points in the margins.

- 2. Respond to the Teacher Created Questions:** Use your annotations and text markings to answer the questions.

Teacher Created Questions

- 3. Develop Questions:** Choose and complete 3 of the following question starters.

A. I wonder about ...

B. I am confused about ...

C. What does it mean when the author says ...

D. Do you think that ...

E. How does this connect to ...

F. Another thing I would like to know is ...

G. Create your own ...



Participating in a WHOLE CLASS Socratic Seminar

Socratic Seminar Opening Question:

- 4. Relocate:** Find a seat at the Socratic Seminar circle or rows of desks.
- 5. Listen and Learn:** To begin the Socratic Seminar, respond to the Opening Question. Build upon each other’s questions to develop a deeper understanding of the text.
 - You should summarize the statements of the previous speaker before presenting a text-based evidence response.
 - You should use the questions from page one of this guide to advance the discussion.

Rules for Current and Controversial Issues Discussions

- Maintain respect for self, others, the conversation, and the topic.
- Refer to evidence to support ideas.
- Acknowledge what was previously said, use transitions to connect comments, ask clarifying questions.
- One person talks at a time.
- Focus on ideas, not personalities or people.
- Everyone should participate and encourage others to participate in the discussion.

6. After the Discussion Reflection

Did you ...	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	No
Contribute on topic comments, prompts, and evidence throughout the activity?				
Seek to understand alternative points of view, even when you did not agree?				
Deepen your understanding of the topic or change your perspective as a result of the discussion?				

- A. What did you learn about the topic from participating in the Socratic Seminar activity?
- B. What was the most interesting question? Why?
- C. What was the best thing you observed?
- D. What was the most challenging thing you heard?
- E. What additional questions do you have about this topic?
- F. How might I improve as a participant? Did you meet the goals you identified at the start of this preparation guide? Please explain.
- G. How did the class improve as participants? Did the class meet the goals identified at the start of the preparation guide? Please explain.



Name: _____

Your Partner's Name: _____

SOCRATIC SEMINAR OBSERVATION TOOL

Add the Topic or Question	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6
Keep a tally of how many times your partner spoke.						
Responded to a question						
Posed a question to the group or asked a follow up question						
Used social norms and acknowledged what an individual said using transition statements						
Invited someone into the conversation or asked someone a specific question						
General Observations: Areas of Strength and Opportunities for Growth						