

Article Title:

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This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

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Open-Ended Questions for a Socratic Seminar

When preparing for a Socratic Seminar, write questions using these sentence frames to stimulate your thinking about the article(s) you read. Choose and complete 5 of the following:

- What puzzles me is...
- I'd like to talk with people about...
- I'm confused about...
- Don't you think this is similar to...
- Do you agree that the big ideas seem to be...

Directions: During any Socratic seminar or discussion that we have in class, you are expected to use academic language when you speak. In turn, you also expected to apply good listening skills during the activity.

Please utilize the following sentence frames while you speak in order to incorporate strong academic language structures into your natural vocabulary and deepen the level of intellectual discussion in an academic setting.

Sentence Frames for Clarification:

- _____, could you please rephrase that?
- I did not understand _____, could you repeat that, please?
- I did not understand _____, do you mean _____? *(here you rephrase what you think the group member said and wait for clarification)*
- It's not quite clear. Can you explain what you said about _____?
- Can you say more about that?
- In other words, are you saying _____?
- I have a question about _____. *State your question.*

Sentence Frame for changing the subject:

- I think we've exhausted the topic of _____, can we move on to _____?
- Moving on to _____
- Does anyone have any final comments to add about _____ or shall we move on to a new subject?

Sentence Frames for affirming an idea and adding to it:

- My idea is related to _____'s idea _____.
- I really liked _____'s idea about _____.
- I agree with _____. Also, _____.
- My idea build's on _____'s idea. I _____.

Presenting a different angle on a subject:

- While I can see why you believe this, I see this differently. In my opinion _____.
- I understand where you are coming from, but I see it a bit differently. From my perspective, _____.
- That's a valid point, but I feel _____.
- On the other hand, _____.
- I do agree with the part about _____ but _____.

Expressing your opinion:

- I believe that _____.
- In my opinion _____.
- I feel that _____.
- I think that _____ because _____.
- To me, it seems obvious that _____.

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Name _____ Date: _____ Class Name _____

Socratic Seminar Self-Reflection

Check those statements that you feel adequately describe your participation in the seminar.

- ☐ 1. I came prepared for the seminar.
- ☐ 2. I was courteous to the other students.
- ☐ 3. I paused and thought before speaking.
- ☐ 4. I listened to others tell their opinions.
- ☐ 5. I kept an open mind for opinions different from my own.
- ☐ 6. I acted as a positive role model for other students.
- ☐ 7. I built on what was said just before I gave my opinion.
- ☐ 8. I used specific examples from the text to support statements.
- ☐ 9. I felt comfortable speaking in the seminar.
- ☐ 10. I gave my opinions clearly.

Give yourself a letter grade for today's seminar: A B C D F

How would you rate today's seminar? (Check one)

- ☐ Excellent (Everyone participated, listened, had good ideas, did not interrupt.)
- ☐ Good (Generally, everyone participated but the seminar could have better ideas and behavior.)
- ☐ Fair (Side talk, interruptions, students distracted.)
- ☐ Poor (Lots of side talk, interruptions, and rude behavior.)

GROWTH: Explain how the Seminar (or a specific idea mentioned) influenced your thinking about the topic or the text(s):

REACTION: What was one thing someone said that made you have a strong reaction? Explain what was said and why you felt the way you did:

GOAL: Identify a personal goal for the next seminar: