

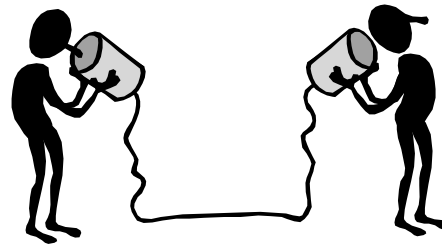
Socratic Seminars

The purpose of a Socratic seminar is to learn through thoughtful dialogue by exchanging opinions and ideas. This 30-minute process of collective inquiry fosters creative thinking. It is important to remember during these sessions, that there are no right answers and that the seminar is not a debate.



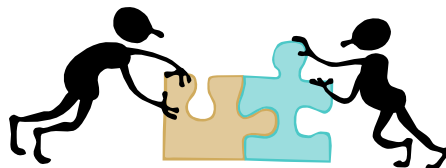
Process

1. Read the selected text. (The text could be an article, film, topic from class, i.e., scientific hypothesis or historical event).
2. Generate questions or comments. (See roles below.)
3. Review the protocol.
4. Conduct the seminar (30 min.)
5. Debrief the seminar (5 min.)

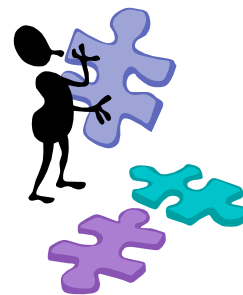


Roles

Leader	Participants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Studies the text prior to the class ✓ Questions to clarify and generate new ideas ✓ Monitors 'air time' of participants ✓ Helps guide new interpretations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Study the text prior to the class ✓ Listen actively and politely ✓ Respond by sharing new or related ideas ✓ Question and clarify ideas ✓ Support their ideas by referring to the text



Socratic Seminar Sample Questions



Sample Opening Questions:

- What is the main idea of the text?
- What is the author's purpose or perspective?
- What does _____ mean?
- What is the most important word or sentence?

Sample Clarifying Questions (regarding the original question):

- Is the question clear?
- Does this question lead to other questions or issues?
- What does this question assume about _____?

Sample Leader Questions:

- Who has a different perspective?
- Can anyone else give evidence to support that response?
- Who has not had a chance to share yet?
- How does that relate to what _____ said?
- What would be an example of that?
- What are your reasons for saying that?
- Can you explain how you logically got from _____ to _____?

Sample Participant Questions:

- What do you mean by _____?
- How does _____ relate to _____?
- Do you mean _____?

Sample Closing Questions:

- Why is this text important?
- How does the text relate to our lives?
- How might other groups of people respond?

Sample Debriefing Questions:

- What was something you noticed about the seminar?
- How well did we follow our norms?
- What could we do to improve the process for next time?