

Introduce Socratic Seminar



Purpose of the Socratic Seminar

To enhance your critical thinking and speaking skills, you will be assigned a specific question for in-depth discussion with a group of your peers. You will have 10 minutes to engage in an academic conversation, during which you should explore the topic thoroughly, using evidence to support your ideas.

Remember, articulating your thoughts in a formal discussion will deepen your understanding of the text and improve the quality of your writing.

After the discussion, you will complete a summative assessment by writing a strong, evidence-based claim related to the question you discussed.





How does it work?

There will be two circles:

- The Inner Circle who engages in the academic conversation about their texts.
- The Outer Circle who must observe a person in the inner circle, learn from them, and provide them with kinds, specific, and constructive feedback.



Socratic Seminar Directions

Step 1: PREP

- We are going to split into three groups.
- Each group will be assigned a question that they must answer using **at least three of the texts** we've read:
 - "Fish Cheeks,"
 - A House on Mango Street
 - "Still I Rise"
 - "What is a home?"
- You will have the rest of the day and time at home to complete your preparation for the seminar.
Note: No laptops are allowed during the seminar.
You may only use your notes!



Identity Socratic Seminar Prep Sheet

Your Name: _____ **Date:** _____ **Group:** _____ **Period:** _____

Directions: Create at least 3 different arguments using 3 different texts that respond to your assigned question. Then provide two pieces of evidence to support your claim, and come up with questions that you could use to keep the conversation flowing. You will use this information to help you in our Socratic Seminar. To add more depth to your claims, think about the author bios, contexts, and figurative language. How do all of these factors contribute to your understanding of the texts? Texts you can use: “Fish Cheeks,” *House on Mango Street*, “Still I Rise,” “What is a home?,” and “The Rose that Grew from Concrete.” **Write NEATLY.**

Assigned Question:

| Texts Used (3 diff ones) | Claims and Analyses Provide at least three responses (one per box) to your assigned question. | Evidence Identify and cite evidence for each response | Questions Provide one question per row. |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---|
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Example

| Texts Used | Arguments and Analyses Provide at least three responses (one per box) to your assigned question. | Evidence Identify and cite evidence for each response | Questions Provide one question per row. |
|------------------------|---|---|--|
| “I look at the world.” | Hughes uses eyes to demonstrate a growing understanding of his status in America as a black man. The fact that his eyes are “awakening” suggests that he was not fully aware of the oppression and limitations imposed upon him and that it was only through looking closely and intently that he noticed that he was living without full autonomy. | Lines 2-5: “awakening eyes in a black face . . . fenced off narrow space / assigned to him” | Why do you think Hughes chose to use eyes as a symbol? Why not a window or a mirror? |

Socratic Seminar Directions

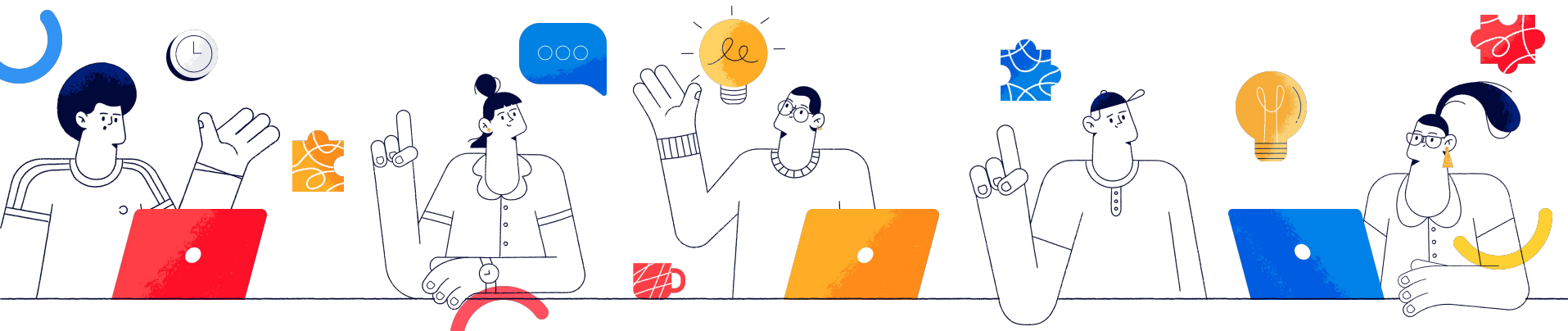
Step 2: The Socratic Seminar

- Next class, each group must have a 10 minute discussion about their assigned question.
- While discussing, you must engage equally, use socratic seminar sentence frames, listen intently to your peers, build on their responses, and keep the conversation flowing.
- When you are not speaking, you are taking notes on your group partner's participation and performance in the discussion. If they are absent, pick someone else in the inner circle to observe.
 - Use the check boxes and make sure your feedback is kind, specific, and constructive.
- We will then switch to the 2nd group, and finally the third.



Grading and norms:

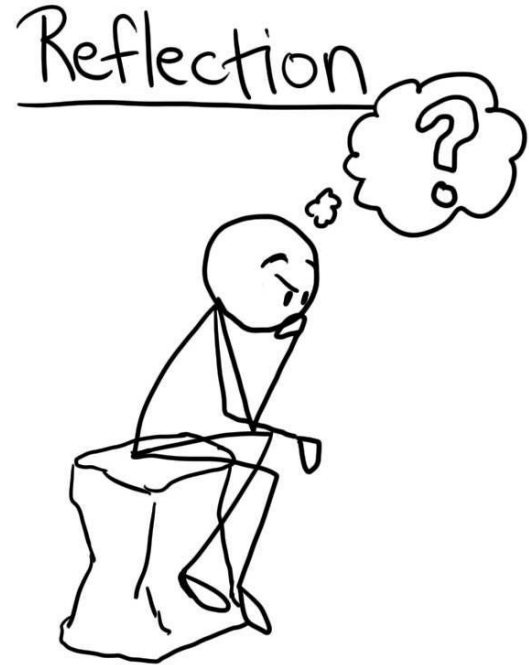
- ✓ You must use the [Socratic Seminar Sentence Frames](#) to make comments.
- ✓ Do not monopolize the discussion: Let others in, engage them, and elicit their comments. If you've spoken the required number of times, please create the space for others to to speak as well.
- ✓ Don't just answer questions; echo/build on your classmates' comments and use your classmates' comments as the springboard for your own.
- ✓ Try to mention your peers by name when you build on their ideas.



Socratic Seminar Directions

Step 3: Reflection and Summative Quiz

- Reflect on how you did and what you learned.
- Take quiz on writing a strong, insightful claim with a So What that is powerful!



Questions



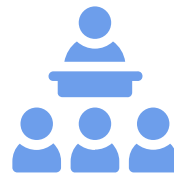
Question 1

What role does adversity play in the development of identities in the literary pieces we have read? How do the characters or speakers overcome or respond to their challenges?



Question 2

In what ways do the settings influence the characters or speakers' experiences and perspectives? How do these settings contribute to the overall themes of the works?



Question 3

What do the authors communicate about class and status in their pieces? Compare and contrast how they explore those aspects of their identities to each other.