

## Socratic Seminar Guidelines

- 1) Talk to each other, not just to the discussion leader or teacher.
- 2) Refer to evidence from the text to support your ideas.
- 3) Ask questions if you do not understand what someone has said, or you can paraphrase what another student has said for clarification. (“I think you said this, is that right?”)
- 4) You do not need to raise your hands to speak, but please pay attention to your “airtime” – how much you have spoken in relation to other students.
- 5) Don’t interrupt.
- 6) Don’t put down the ideas of another student. Without judging the student who you may disagree with, state your alternate interpretation or ask a follow-up question to help probe or clarify an idea.
- 7) Common statements or questions used during a Socratic seminar include:

Where does that idea come from in the text?

What does this word or phrase mean?

Can you say that in another way?

So you believe that . . . , but . . .

Is this what you mean to say . . .

What do you think the author is trying to say?

What else could that mean?

Who was the audience for this text? How does that shape our interpretation of these words?

Who was the author of this text? What do we know about him/her? How does that shape our understanding of these words?