

Socratic Seminar Rules

1. Come to the seminar prepared with four items: the assigned text, paper, pencil, and your pre-seminar notes/writing.
2. Write down any ideas that come to mind that you want to express as we conduct the seminar. This will keep you from forgetting your points while others are speaking.
3. Realize that all students will want/need to participate, so be patient and listen carefully to clarify your own thinking or to spur you to think more deeply about an idea while you wait. *A high degree of mental alertness is needed in order to have a successful seminar.*
4. You must be honest, humble, and courageous.
 - Honest dialogue
 - Humility in terms of realizing that the opinions and views of others have merit
 - Courage to say what is deep inside you, no matter what others think
5. Look for opportunities to introduce new ideas into the dialogue, especially if we are “hung up” on an old idea.
6. Be courteous at all times. Disagree with what a person says, not with the person. **Never attack another person verbally. It’s ok to disagree, but don’t be disagreeable.**
7. Since the responsibility for learning in a seminar rests with you, the student, I will give no feedback. My role is to facilitate and to ask follow-up questions.
8. Seminars are graded. Students are graded on the **quality** of what is said and **not on the number of time he/she speaks**.
9. Quote the text to support any points you make. While opinions are important, it is vital that you learn to support your opinions/views with textual evidence for speaking and writing purposes.
10. **Your failure to read sabotages the seminar. If you do not read and therefore a hindrance to the group, you will be removed from the seminar and take notes instead.**