

SOCRATIC SEMINAR

Standards covered:

SWBAT discuss ideas while respecting others, within a group setting

SWBAT cite textual evidence to support personal opinions and analysis of literature

Task:

To really test our discussion skills, we're going to engage in a Socratic Seminar. This begins with preparation on your part; you will be required to be up to date on your reading of *The Odyssey* and to write at least 3 higher-order discussion questions about the text. This can include questions on the symbols, characters, themes, etc... Moreover, it would be helpful to prepare notes on what we've discussed so far, especially in terms of the "big picture," like themes, symbols, etc.... On seminar day, we will sit in a circle and I will ask the first question to get us started. From there, it will be your job to keep the discussion going; you can do this by prompting one another to support their claims with textual evidence, using transitional phrases like "I agree because...", posing another question based on one you prepared, making connections between ideas, and relating ideas to new topics or situations. There is no particular order as to who speaks when nor will you be required to raise your hand to speak. However, keep in mind that part of your grade is based on respectfully sharing the floor with others and not interrupting others.

Socratic Seminar Rubric

Criteria	Weight	Missing	Beginning	Developing	Proficiency	Mastery
Respect	X 3	Disrespectful language used throughout the discussion and interrupted others several times	Disrespectful language used several times and interrupted others at least twice		Respectful language was used the majority of the time and shared the floor appropriately most of the time; may have interrupted once	Respectful language used at all times and shared the floor appropriately by not interrupting others
Speaking	X 1	Did not participate		Participated, but needed prompting to get involved.		Participated fully; did not need prompting to get involved
Supporting Evidence	X 2	No textual evidence was given to support opinions and ideas	Attempted to use textual evidence to support ideas and opinions, but chose irrelevant examples	Some opinions and ideas were supported by relevant evidence from the text; tried to make connections between ideas, but was inaccurate	Most opinions and ideas were supported by relevant evidence from the text; made some connections between ideas	All opinions and thoughts were supported by relevant evidence from the text and made connections between ideas
Preparation	X 1	Not prepared for the discussion; not familiar with the text nor understands the major concepts; did not have discussion questions prepared	Prepared a little for discussion; familiar with parts of the text; understands a few of the major concepts; had 1 thoughtful discussion questions prepared	Somewhat prepared for the discussion; somewhat familiar with text; understands some of the major concepts; had 2 thoughtful discussion questions prepared	Mostly prepared for the discussion; familiar with text; understands most major concepts; had 3 somewhat thoughtful discussion questions prepared	Clearly prepared for the discussion; familiar with text, understands major concepts, and had at least 3 thoughtful discussion questions prepared

