**Socratic Seminar**

The purpose is to achieve a deeper understanding about the ideas and values in a text. You participate by asking questions, examining the text, speaking about your opinions, and evaluating points of view.

You have to practice active listening and address each other respectfully. All of your opinions should be based on the text. No side conversations are tolerated—it is disrespectful and prevents learning from happening. The conversation should flow freely—you don’t have to raise your hand to speak, but you should be sensitive to take turns and not interrupt others. I am part of the discussion circle. Direct your comments and questions to your peers, not to me.

**Questions.**

The questions you bring to seminar fall into three types: interpretive, literal, or evaluative.

For an interpretive question, you question the text. \*No single right answer exists. Classmates should be able to speak from different points of view and still address the question.

Literal questions check comprehension. There should not be many of these asked because they do not propel discussion very well.

For evaluative questions, you connect your own experiences to the text.

**Writing Questions.**

When you write questions to ask during seminar, they should be open-ended—that means that there isn’t one single answer, but that different opinions can be shared to discuss the topic. There are, of course, numerous ways to ask questions, but here are a few ways to start this type of question:

* What puzzles me is…..
* I’d like to talk to people about….
* I’m confused about….
* Don’t you think this is similar to…
* Do you agree that the main idea seems to be…
* I have questions about….
* Another point of view on the topic is…
* I think it means…
* Do you think…
* What does it mean when the author says…
* Do you agree that…