

Socratic Seminar Ground Rules:

1. Listen actively, Keeping a record of thoughts and ideas as the discussion progresses, so as not to lose valuable contributions.
2. Build on what other participants say
3. Don't interrupt other participants
4. Silences/Pauses are acceptable
5. Direct conversation to peers, not to facilitator
6. Refer to the text directly, avoiding vague abstractions
7. Ask questions to clarify and probe ideas
8. Watch your "air" time
9. End each speaking point in the form of a question for the group to ponder.

Things to Avoid in a Socratic Seminar:

Do not make inappropriate comments

Do not interrupt speakers

Do not hog the floor

Do not engage in side conversations or pass notes

Have Something to Say: Read and Discuss

Make a prediction

I predict that ...
I bet that ...
I think that ...
Since _____ happened, then I bet the next thing that is going to happen is...
Reading this part makes me think about _____ is about to happen...
I wonder if...

Ask a question

Why did ...
What's this part about ...
How is _____ like this _____ ...
What would happen if ...
Why ...
Who is ...
What does this section mean...
Do you think that ...
I don't get this part here ...
"I wonder why the author...."
"I wonder why _____ what emphasized so heavily"

Clarify Something

Oh, I get it ...
Now I understand...
This makes sense now because ..
No, I think it means ...
I agree with you. This means ...
At first I thought _____ but now I think...
This part is really saying ...

Make a comment

This is good because ...
This is hard because ...
This is confusing because...
I like the part where ...
I don't like this part because ...
My favorite part so far is ...
I think that ...
"I find it interesting that..."
"The images in the text interest me because..."

Make a Connection

This reminds me of ...
This part is like ...
This person (fill in name) is like (fill in name) because ...
This is similar to ...
The differences are ...
I can relate to _____ because(explain something in the text that has also happened to you) ...
This person makes me think of...
This setting reminds me of...
"I recognize a connection between _____ and _____"
"I wonder if _____ influenced _____"
"_____ reminds me of _____ in our society today"