

The following is our second installment of our Socratic Seminars. This time it will be teacher lead (to begin) and then it's all up to you – the student. The seminar will focus on *The Catcher In The Rye*. The book should be completed.

Before we embark on the assignment, here's what we need to know:

Definition: A collaborative, intellectual dialogue facilitated with open-ended questions about a text.

Purpose: To achieve a deeper understanding about the ideas and values in a text. Participants systematically question and examine issues and principles related to the text and construct meaning through disciplined analysis, interpretation, and participation.

Keys to success:

- Study the text closely in advance
- Come prepared with open-ended questions
- Listen actively
- Share ideas and questions
- Support your ideas with evidence from the text

What a seminar is NOT:

- It is not interactive lecturing
- It is not canned student speaking
- It is not a debate
- It is not a “teacher led” class discussion (where students take turns sharing, strictly, thoughts, feelings and reactions.)

Rather, the seminar is:

- A collective inquiry into questions and issues, typically prompted by a reading or shared experience.
- A key aim is to develop everyone's understanding of the issues – not to be confused with “answering” the teacher's questions.
- The seminar also aims at everyone's self- understanding – through speaking, idea testing, listening, and reflection.
- The purpose is to ‘uncover’ not ‘cover’ a subject.**

Discussion Norms: (Ground rules)

- Don't raise hands
- Listen carefully
- Address one another respectfully
- Base any opinions on the text
- Address comments to the group (no side conversations)*
- Do NOT interrupt others
- As a student, DO NOT passively sit and await instruction. I will not bail you out.
- DO NOT attempt to control the seminar.
- DO NOT sabotage the seminar – that will result in a 0.
- This is NOT about being right or wrong. Present your own thoughts and reasoning, but be flexible and willing to change your mind in the face of new and compelling evidence.

We'll debrief after the seminar.

Assignment: (Socratic Seminar)

Romeo and Juliet/ The Catcher In The Rye:

- Two circles (one inner and one outer)
- Each student will be paired, randomly, with a partner.
- Each participant will be peer evaluated. (Rubric to follow) However, the peer evaluation will be for feedback purposes only. These marks will NOT count.
- Mr. Tierney will formally evaluate each participant. Those marks WILL count. (Rubric to follow)
- Each student will be given some "Thinking" questions to do before the seminar. (Open-ended thinking questions). **It is your responsibility to have these complete.**
- Each seminar will last, approximately, 20-25mins mins.
- IF you are absent approved for the day, you will have a written assignment to do instead. If you are unapproved, a mark of NHI will be given in SAS.

Good luck, and have some fun with this!

Seminar date: _____