

SOCRATIC SEMINAR FEEDBACK

- Make sure you have thoroughly **prepared** for the seminar!
 - Don't just read the text and assume you will be able to participate effectively
 - There's no excuse for any confusion with the questions; any confusion should have been cleared up during in-class preparation time
 - Find a system of annotation that allows for quick textual referencing
 - Be sure you have quotes or passages to support your claims
 - For example, when stating "The house does everything for the family," you should provide the specific quoted examples: "On page 3, we see that 'the house rocked the family to sleep.'"
 - Prior to the discussion, consider the connections between the story and other literature you have read and connections to the real world. These are the "so what?" questions. Why is this text important? What messages are the author trying to send? How does this apply to our lives? This is how you will demonstrate not only a thorough preparation, but also a clear understanding of the text.
 - In your preparation time, consider follow-up questions that directly relate to the discussion topics provided by the teacher and prepare responses
 - In order to be a responsible student and contributor to the conversation, class preparation alone is insufficient; you **NEED** to invest additional time at home in order to add valuable contributions to the discussion.
- Thinking and making eye contact at the same time is extremely difficult; however, if you have taken sufficient time in preparation and are confident in your personal stance and your understanding of the story, eye contact will come more naturally or will be easier to focus on in improving.
 - This includes making eye contact with the speaker as you are listening
 - This is one of the main ways the evaluator assesses your "active listening" on the rubric
- While you are listening to your peers' perspectives, you should be considering how you could follow up with an additional question to clarify or help to expand their viewpoint
 - This means you **CANNOT** be considering your own responses while also listening to your peers.

- This is why your responses need to be formulated in advance!
- **This applies to OUTER CIRCLE as well!**
- Break the habit of using phrases that detract from your confidence, such as:
 - I don't know
 - I guess
 - I think
 - Maybe
 - I don't know how to describe it
 - I guess I will
 - INSTEAD, consider using phrases like:
 - Others may have another perspective, but I believe...
- For the dominators of conversations:
 - You need to be cognizant of how often you are taking initiative to respond first during the discussion
 - You should not be working through a thought process while speaking (this requires PREPARATION!)
- For those who are more hesitant in speaking first:
 - You've got to prepare thoroughly
 - Know exactly what you are going to say (this might require you to actually rehearse your responses!)
 - Choose a question for which you WILL initiate the conversation

Personal Strengths: _____

Personal Weaknesses: _____

Personal Goal for Next Seminar: _____
