

Socratic Seminar How-To and Expectations

Before Seminar Info

Definition and Purpose

A Socratic seminar is a collaborative, intellectual dialogue about a text, facilitated with open-ended questions.

The main purpose of seminar is to arrive at a fuller understanding of the ideas and values in youth sports, *The Crossover*, and belonging, of ourselves, and of each other.

Rules and Expectations

You are a participant. As participants, I am asking you to think, listen, and speak about your thoughts, reactions, and ideas. You should follow these rules:

- Students don't need to raise their hands to talk.
Focus on the main speaker and wait your turn.
- Respond to each other using each other's names.
- Express agreement or disagreement in a courteous, thoughtful manner.
Focus on the ideas and statements being said, not the people saying them.

I am the facilitator. I am primarily responsible for asking challenging, open-ended questions.

- I will take a variety of notes to keep up with the talk turns and flow of ideas.
- I will help move the discussion along, as needed, in a productive direction by asking follow-up questions based on my notes.

Group Process Goal

Now, let's think about how we normally participate in a discussion as a group. What goal can we set for ourselves that will help the flow of the seminar?

We will come up with a group goal together. Think of possibilities to suggest.

Common Group Goals

- Focus on ideas and values embedded in text.
- Keep an open mind.
- Invite everyone to share their ideas.
- Use others' names.
- Remember that one person speaks at a time.

Personal Participation Goal

Consider the list of personal participation goals that I have listed on the right. Is there one that is a particular challenge for you? Please choose one goal from the list and commit to achieving it during the discussion. Write your personal goal on your seminar sheet.

Common Personal Goals

Beginner Goals

- Look at speaker
- Do not talk while speaker is talking
- Speak voluntarily at least twice
- Speak loudly so everyone can hear
- Use others' names
- Share talk time
- Make clear, accurate statements
- Refer to the text
- Ask a question

Advanced Goals

- Speak using relevant vocabulary and good grammar
- Refer to the text and relevant sources
- Take notes on discussion
- Consider multiple points of view
- Acknowledge personal bias
- Acknowledge changes in your perspective

After Seminar Info

Self-Assessment

After your focused and thoughtful participation in our seminar, you must complete a post-seminar activity. As part of the process, you will take a few minutes to reflect on your success in meeting the participation goal you set for yourself prior to the discussion. Please review your goal and write to what extent you met it. In addition, note why you think you performed as you did.

Group Assessment

Next, we need to talk together about how we did in relation to the group process goal we set for ourselves. On a scale of one to ten, ten being perfect, how would you say we did? Why?

*Answer these on your Youth Sports Seminar sheet.

Anticipation

What goal should we work on next seminar? Make note of that for next time.