**Socratic Seminar**

***Preparing for the Discussion***

To prepare for the seminar:

* Write down **questions** that occur to you about things you don’t understand, or about things you want to discuss.
* Note **passages** you think are particularly important, and make notes about why they seem important.
* Make notes about what the reading section makes you think of, perhaps another text or event in your life.
* Write your **personal reaction** to the text, whether you agree or disagree with the author and why.
* Write a short paraphrase of any sentence or concept that seems more difficult. This way you will be able to remember it more easily later.
* Note **literary elements** (detail, tone, diction, figurative language) that seem especially powerful, and consider how they help create meaning in the text.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Text Notes (page #s)** | **Ideas/Thoughts/Questions** |
| 1.  2.  3.  4. |  |

***Evaluation of Discussion***

**Step 1:**

Consider the following with regard to your evaluation about the inner circle you observed:

* Did the conversation make sense?
* How deep did it go? Were there any missed opportunities to go further?
* Did people respond well to each other? Did everyone participate?
* What kinds of questions were asked?
* Was the text cited often?
* Were connections to personal lives made?
* What did you learn from listening?
* Did the dialogue lead you to change your mind about anything?

**Step 2:**

Respond to the following as and observer and a participant.

**Observers**: Looking at goals of seminar and above criteria— how did your subject do? Discuss her/his strengths and any suggestions you might have.

**Participants**: Recall your own observations and participation. Discuss your involvement, reflecting on the criteria and questions above. Include what you could do next time to improve your participation or discussion skills.