

## Socratic Seminar Directions

1. What is a Socratic seminar?
    - a. In a Socratic seminar activity, students help one another understand the ideas, issues, and values reflected in a text through a group discussion format. Through this type of discussion, students practice how to listen to one another, make meaning, and find common ground while participating in conversation.
  2. Steps for the Socratic seminar:
    - a. Each team will be put into a "home group" of 4 to 5 students or more or less, depending on the class size.
    - b. Create a group of tables at the front of the room where the Socratic seminar will take place.
    - c. Each student will be given a letter (a-d) or more letters depending on class size. Each person in the "home group" should have a different letter.
    - d. The teacher will draw a letter (a-d) from the jar. Then, the student who was given that specific letter, will go up to the front to do the Socratic seminar. Each "home group" should have at least one person at the front every round.
    - e. While their teammate is presenting their information in the Socratic seminar, the rest of the "home group" will be taking notes on what their teammate did well and what they can improve on.
    - f. I will draw a number from the jar. Each question is given a number. The number drawn is the question that they will have to discuss.
    - g. Once the teacher has given them the question, they will have 1 minute to go over their answer silently. The teacher will tell them something like, "During the Socratic seminar, argue your opinion as to the answer of the questions."
    - h. The first round of the Socratic seminar will last for 5 minutes. The students will each take a turn answering the question that was given. They will discuss their answers and agree or disagree. Once those 5 minutes are up, the teacher will tell the students what to consider for the next round.
    - i. Next, the students will go back to their home group, and their home group will let them know how to improve for the next round.
    - j. They will have 2 minutes to discuss what they need to improve on with their home group.
    - k. They will then come back to the front to the Socratic seminar group, and the second round will begin. The second round will last 3 minutes total or more depending on the teacher preferences.
    - l. Once the three minutes are up, the teacher will give the students feedback on how they did and what the next group could do to improve.
    - m. Then, the teacher will repeat the process for the next group.
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## Questions for Socratic Seminar

- 1) Why does the vine wish to get rid of its poison and what does this suggest about the Choctaw view of nature?
- 2) Why are the men who turned into an eagle, a pigeon, and a spider allowed to return to earth from the Sky-land, and what animal would you have chosen to transform into in the mythology and why?
- 3) What do the different versions of the Tar Baby story suggest about the values/priorities of the different cultures who told the story?
- 4) How does the Abrahamic/Greek view of nature contrast with the Native American view?
- 5) What role can mythology play in today's times?