

Socratic Seminar Rubric

Excellent - 4

A. Conduct: Demonstrates clear respect for the learning process and patience with opinions that are different and more or less complex. Shows initiative by asking others for clarification, bringing others into the conversation, and moving the conversation forward. Avoids dominating the conversation. Uses insightful language.

B. Speaking/Reasoning: Speaks to all participants, not just the facilitator or a single member of the group. Understands questions before answering. Cites evidence from the text (or elsewhere when appropriate). Expresses complete thoughts in complete sentences. Comments are logical and insightful. Makes connections among ideas of previous speakers or resolves seemingly contradictory ideas.

C. Listening: Pays attention to detail, writes down questions and thoughts. Responses take into account the comments of other participants and demonstrates that the student has followed the conversation. Overcomes distractions.

Above Average - 3

A. Conduct: Demonstrates respect for the learning process and patience with different opinions. Asks for clarification and contributes to conversation. Uses appropriate language.

B. Speaking/Reasoning: Speaks to most participants. Asks questions that reflect interest. Responds to questions connecting thoughts to previous ideas. Comments are logical. Makes connections among ideas from previous speakers.

C. Listening: Listens attentively and follows conversation. Makes notes on comments of other participants. Distractions are ignored.

Satisfactory - 2

A. Conduct: Show some respect for the learning process by tolerating opinions that differ from own. Contributes to conversation. Language is adequate.

B. Speaking/Reasoning: Speaks to select participants. Able to express most ideas coherently. Refers to previous ideas but may not seem to make connections. Comments may need minor clarification.

C. Listening: Listens and notes comments by participants. Distracted, but able to return to focus on conversation.

Unsatisfactory - 1

A. Conduct: Displays little respect for the learning process. May be argumentative. Minor distractions cannot be ignored. May use inappropriate language and speak about individuals rather than ideas. Seems unprepared.

B. Speaking and Reasoning: Extremely reluctant to participate even when called upon. Comments are so illogical as to be meaningless. May mumble or express incomplete ideas. Little or no connection is made between previous comments or important ideas in the text.

C. Listening: Appears uninvolved in the seminar. Comments may display complete misinterpretation of question or comments of other participants. Easily distracted.

No Grade - 0

Student refuses to participate.