**GUIDELINES FOR PARTICPANTS IN A SOCRATIC SEMINAR**

1. Sit with good posture.
2. Refer to the text when needed during the discussion. A seminar is not a test of memory. You are not “learning a subject”; your goal is to understand the ideas, issues, and values reflected in the text.
3. It’s okay to occasionally “pass” when asked to contribute.
4. A seminar should not be a bull session. You must be prepared and have your reading assignments completed before coming to class.
5. Do not stay confused; ask for clarification.
6. Stick to the point currently under discussion; make notes about ideas you want to come back to.
7. Don’t raise hands; take turns speaking.
8. Listen carefully without interrupting others.
9. Look at the person who is speaking (also known as “tracking the speaker”). The only time you shouldn’t/wouldn’t be looking at them is when you are writing down what they said as part of your note taking.
10. Speak up so all can hear you.
11. Talk to each other, not just to the leader or teacher. Let all people contribute and encourage others to do so.
12. Discuss ideas rather than each other’s opinions.
13. You are responsible for the seminar, even if you don’t know it or admit it.

**EXPECTATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS IN A SOCRATIC SEMINAR**

*When I am evaluating your Socratic Seminar participation, I ask the following questions about participants. Did they…*

* Speak loudly and clearly
* Cite reasons and evidence for their statements?
* Use the text to find support?
* Listen to others respectfully?
* Stick with the subject?
* Talk to each other, not just to the leader?
* Paraphrase accurately?
* Ask for help to clear up confusion?
* Support each other?
* Avoid hostile exchanges?
* Question others in a civil manner?
* Seem prepared?