Socratic Seminar Observation Checklist

Your Name:_____ Partner's Name:_____

Directions: Each time your partner does one of the following put a check in the box.

Speaks in the discussion

Makes eye contact with other speakers or as she/he speaks

Refers to the text

Asks a new or follow-up question

Responds to another speaker

Paraphrases and adds to another speaker's ideas

Encourages another participant to speak

Interrupts another speaker

Engages in side conversation

Dominates the conversation

AFTER the discussion: What is the most interesting thing your partner said?

AFTER the discussion: What would you like to have said in the discussion?

Socratic Seminar Observation Notes

Name: _____

Directions: *Choose three participants in the seminar to observe. Write examples of the behaviors listed below as you see or hear them occur.*

Participant Name	Offers New Idea	Asks a Question	Refers to Text	Builds on Other's Idea	Distracting Behavior	Other Notes/Observations
1.						
2.						
3.						

Socratic Seminar Self-Assessment
Participant

Name:_____ Seminar Text:_____

Directions: Score your performance in today's seminar using the following criteria:
4 = Excellent   3 = Good   2 = Showing Progress   1 = Needs Improvement

_____ I read the text closely, marked the text, and took notes in advance.

_____ I came prepared with higher level questions related to the text.

_____ I contributed several relevant comments.

_____ I cited specific evidence from the text to support an idea.

_____ I asked at least one thoughtful, probing question.

_____ I questioned or asked someone to clarify their comment.

_____ I built on another person's idea by restating, paraphrasing, or synthesizing.

_____ I encouraged other participants to enter the conversation.

_____ I treated all other participants with dignity and respect.

Overall Score (circle one):   1   1.5   2   2.5   3   3.5   4

Two goals I have for our next seminar are:
1.

2.

 An area where I would like help:

Socratic Seminar Self-Assessment
Leader

Name:_____ Seminar Text:_____

Group
Members:_____
_____

Directions: Score your performance in today's seminar using the following criteria:
4 = Excellent   3 = Good   2 = Showing Progress   1 = Needs Improvement

_____ I listened carefully and helped clear up confusion.

_____ I asked questions to clarify or probe for higher-level thinking.

_____ I helped the group get back on track if they strayed from the text or moved to

debate.

_____ I helped participants work together cooperatively.

_____ I did not dominate the conversation.

_____ I encouraged other participants to enter the conversation.

_____ I treated all other participants with dignity and respect.

_____ The group used the text as a reference throughout the Socratic Seminar.

_____ Group members shared in the discussion of the topic.

_____ The group asked in-depth questions.

_____ Everyone in the group was respectful of other ideas.

_____ The group was able to take the Socratic Seminar to a high level of understanding.

Overall Score (circle one): 1   1.5   2   2.5   3   3.5   4

Two goals I have for my leadership development:
1.

2.

An area where I would like help:

Socratic Seminar Rubric for Individual Participants

Name:_____ Seminar Text:_____

Exemplary
- reads closely, takes notes, and develops high-level questions before the seminar
- uses prepared text, notes, and questions to contribute to the dialogue
- moves the conversation forward
- asks for clarification when needed
- asks probing questions for higher level thinking
- speaks to all participants and is heard clearly
- thinks before answering
- refers directly to the text
- makes connections to other speakers
- builds on others' comments
- considers all opinions
- writes down thoughts and questions
- listens actively
- demonstrates patience and respect toward others' opinions/ideas

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Competent
- comes prepared with marked text, notes, and questions
- contributes to the dialogue
- responds to questions
- refers to text
- offers interesting ideas
- asks questions
- takes notes
- pays attention
- is respectful of others' ideas

Developing
- comes with some text preparation
- emphasizes own ideas; may lean toward debate rather than dialogue
- ideas not always connected
- refers to text
- repeats some ideas
- asks a few questions and/or questions are lower level
- takes some notes
- loses track of conversation
- judges others' ideas

Needs Improvement
- does not participate or participation is inappropriate
- repeats same ideas
- few or no notes taken
- no questions asked
- seems lost/overwhelmed with the seminar

Evaluating a Socratic Seminar as a Whole

Consider the following questions as you prepare to talk about the strengths of a seminar and the areas for growth.

Did the participants . . .

- ☐ seem prepared?
- ☐ speak loudly and clearly?
- ☐ cite reasons and evidence for their statements?
- ☐ use the text to find support?
- ☐ build on each other's ideas?
- ☐ paraphrase accurately?
- ☐ ask for help to clear up confusion?
- ☐ ask higher level questions to move the dialogue forward?
- ☐ stick with the subject?
- ☐ listen to others respectfully?
- ☐ talk to each other, not just the leader?
- ☐ encourage everyone's involvement and avoid dominating the conversation?
- ☐ avoid hostile exchanges and debate?
- ☐ question each other in a civil manner?

Did the leader . . .

- ☐ get participants engaged early? How?
- ☐ make sure that questions were understood?
- ☐ ask questions that led to further questions?
- ☐ draw out reasons and implications?
- ☐ keep attention on ideas in the text being discussed?
- ☐ question misreadings of the text?
- ☐ allow time (pauses) for thinking?
- ☐ draw in all participants?
- ☐ listen carefully to participants' statements?
- ☐ accept participants' answers without judgment?
- ☐ allow for discussion of disagreements?

Our class/seminar group demonstrated these major strengths:

Our class/seminar group can grow in the following ways: