

Seminar Discussion Norms

Socratic Seminar Discussion Norms:

- 1) Do not raise hand; this is a conversation, not a question and answer session
- 2) One person speaks at a time -- no interrupting
- 3) Address each other, not the teacher
- 4) Ground interpretations and comments in the text
- 5) Listen to and respect each other's opinions
- 6) Remember: there is no wrong answer!

Discussion Phrases to Use:

In order to interact with one another in a mature way, here are a few phrases to help us communicate during the discussion:

When you disagree:

- 1) "I have a different opinion/interpretation" (followed by statement)
- 2) "I disagree. Let me explain why..."

For clarification if you do not understand:

- 1) "I think I understand, but let me be sure" (then rephrase)
- 2) "What do you mean by...?"

When you agree:

- 1) "I agree with his/her point and this is why..."
- 2) "I think he/she is right because..."