***Paideia Seminars***

C:\Documents and Settings\lfutrell\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\DF89D3A7\MC900379067[1].wmf**What is a Paideia Seminar?**

A Paideia Seminar is a way of teaching developed by the Greek philosopher Socrates.   
Socrates believed that:

* Students learn best by asking questions.
* It is the teacher’s job to moderate the discussion instead of leading the discussion.

**How do you prepare for a Seminar?**

You will be given a pre-seminar assignment prior to the day of the seminar. It is your job to complete the pre-seminar reading and assignment. It is ESSENTIAL that you prepare for the Socratic Seminar by completing ALL pre-seminar assignments. You will not be able to participate in the seminar if you are not prepared.

**What types of questions will be asked during a Seminar?**

The teacher will ask open-ended questions during the seminar, but students are encouraged to pose their own questions. In fact, as we progress through the semester you will be expected to guide the discussion more by asking your own questions in the seminar.

**How do I create Open-ended questions?**

There are three types of questions you should create.

Evaluation**—**make informed judgments about the value of ideas or materials. Use standards and criteria to support opinions and views. Should force students to judge, critique, or interpret processes, materials, methods, etc.

* What criteria would you use to asses \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?
* What choice would you have made \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?
* What is the most important \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?
* What is your opinion of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?
* Rank the importance of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Analysis**—**break down a concept or idea into parts and show relationships among the parts. Should force students to explain why the broke down a problem in a certain way and explain how they came to their solution and why that solution worked.

* Classify \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ according to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* What explanation do you have for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?
* How is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ connected to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?
* Discuss the pros and cons of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* What is the problem with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?
* Why do you think \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

Synthesis**—**creation. Bring together parts of knowledge to form a whole and build relationships for new situations. Should force students to combine concepts to build new ideas for new situations.

* What alternative would you suggest for \_\_\_\_\_\_?
* How would you generate a plan to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?
* Predict the outcome if \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* How would you improve \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?
* Elaborate on the reason for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* How would you portray \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**What are the guidelines for a Seminar?**

1. Be prepared; do all reading and pre-seminar assignments on time!
2. Bring all materials related to the seminar: books, handouts, assignment sheets, guidelines, etc.
3. Don’t raise your hands! Just listen to each other, wait politely for others to finish speaking, and then make your comment. Be sure not to interrupt your classmates.
4. Listen carefully to others.
5. Speak clearly and loudly so that everyone can hear you.
6. Speak to your classmates, not just the teacher! You are working together as a class to discuss and understand a topic and/or text. This is time for you to explore each other’s knowledge and ideas; this is not time for the teacher to lecture or tell you what you need to know. The teacher simply moderates the discussion and observes.
7. Refer to the text when needed during the discussion. A seminar is not a test of memory. Your goal is to understand the ideas, issues, values, and topics found in the text.
8. Take notes during the discussion to help you make specific references to your peers’ comments.
9. Stay on topic. If you notice that the discussion has shifted off-topic, make the class aware and shift them back in the right direction.
10. Discuss your ideas, rather than simply each other’s opinions. There is no doubt that opinions come up, but this is not a debate. No one is right, and no one is wrong.
11. Speak several times during the seminar – do not just sit and observe, and do not monopolize.
12. BE POLITE, RESPECFUL, AND KIND TO YOUR CLASSMATES, EVEN IF YOU DISAGREE WITH THEM. You are not expected to think the same, but you can disagree in a polite manner.

**What do I do after the seminar?**

You will complete a post-seminar assignment to show your understanding of the topic, discussion, and your own reflection.

**How will the Seminar be graded?**

Seminar grades are categorized as Reading Techniques grades; therefore, they count 35%. You will receive 1 seminar grade, but it will be weighted according to the following scale:

1. Pre-seminar Assignment: 15%
2. Core Seminar: 70%
3. Post-Seminar Assignment: 15%

**What do I do if I am absent on the day of a seminar?**

You still have to complete all the work; you just will not have the chance to experience the actual seminar discussion. Email your Pre-writing assignment to the teacher on the due date, you will be sent a list of questions from the seminar that you must answer in writing in addition to the Post-write assignment. It is difficult to make up a Seminar, so make your very best effort to be present for all the Semiars!

**See Sample Rubric attached**