

Dialogue and Debate

Dialogue is collaborative: multiple sides work toward shared understanding.	Debate is oppositional: two opposing sides try to prove each other wrong.
In dialogue, one listens to understand, to make meaning, and to find common ground.	In debate, one listens to find flaws, to spot differences, and to counter arguments.
Dialogue enlarges and possibly changes a participant's point of view.	Debate affirms a participant's point of view.
Dialogue creates an open-minded attitude: an openness to being wrong and an openness to change.	Debate creates a closed-minded attitude, a determination to be right.
In dialogue, one submits one's best thinking, expecting that other people's reflections will help improve it rather than threaten it.	In debate, one submits one's best thinking and defends it against challenge to show that it is right.
Dialogue calls for temporarily suspending one's beliefs.	Debate calls for investing wholeheartedly in one's beliefs.
Dialogue fosters the search for strengths in all positions.	Debate requires the search for weaknesses in other positions.
Dialogue respects all the other participants and seeks not to alienate or offend.	Debate rebuts contrary positions and may belittle or deprecate other participants.
Dialogue assumes that many people have pieces of answers and that cooperation can lead to workable solutions.	Debate assumes a single right answer than someone already has.
Dialogue remains open-ended.	Debate demands a conclusion.

Socratic Seminar Rubric

100%

frequently contributes meaningfully to the discussion
 often uses specific references to the text
 explains ideas clearly and thoroughly
 pays attention when others speak
 makes direct references to others' points
 includes others through invitation into conversation

85%

regularly contributes to the discussion
 sometimes uses specific references to the text
 explains some ideas clearly
 pays attention when others speak
 makes general references to others' points
 attempts to include others in the conversation

75%

occasionally contributes to the discussion
 only uses general references to the text
 vaguely explains ideas
 pays attention when others speak
 refers to others' general ideas
 makes no attempt to include others

50%

makes little or no contribution to the discussion
 shows little evidence of knowledge of the text
 makes distracting remarks
 does not pay attention to others
 makes personal criticisms of the ideas of others
 interrupts when others speak

Evaluate yourself. What grade should you receive based on your participation in today's Socratic seminar? Why? What could you do to be a better participant next time? Specifically, how could you have helped improve today's discussion? Write at least one paragraph.