Let’s Talk!

Using Socratic Seminars in the Elementary Classroom to Promote Higher Order Thinking

Erika Whitesides, John Stone & Sarah Briggs

TINYURL.COM/TLC18GCS
#TLC18GCS
Session Goals

To define, participate in, and reflect on Socratic Seminars in the classroom
Where did Seminar originate?

Why use Seminar?
True knowledge exists in knowing that you know nothing.

Socrates
INTRODUCE SEMINAR NORMS

*Read the text prior to seminar
*Listen carefully
*Don’t raise hands
*Address one another respectfully
*Base opinions on the text
*Address comments to the group (no side conversations)
*Use sensitivity - take turns and not interrupt others
*Monitor ‘air time’
*Be courageous
*Be flexible and open-minded
“Marked for Life”

Janie Reinart
Prior to seminar

- Choosing a text
- Preparing the students
- Preparing the questions
- Establishing student expectations
During/Following Seminar

Establish your role as a facilitator, not a moderator.

Assess effectiveness through reflection.
Good Seminar Topics are...

1. ...rich, complex and challenging.
2. ...relevant and applicable to seminar participants.
3. ...fundamentally ambiguous.
PLANNING

• What topics do you teach that would lend themselves to Socratic Seminar?
• What texts would engage students and encourage discussion?
• How would you ensure participation from all your students?
bit.ly/seminarlessons

bit.ly/livenupseminar
contact us

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thank you!

Don’t forget to register for this session!

tlc18gcs.sched.com

You must sign the roster to receive credit
Let's Talk!

Using Socratic Seminars in the Middle & High School Classroom to Promote Higher Order Thinking

Sarah Briggs, John Stone & Erika Whitesides
Session Goals

To define, participate in, and reflect on Socratic Seminars in the classroom
Where did Seminar originate?

Why use Seminar?
True knowledge exists in knowing that you know nothing.

Socrates
INTRODUCE SEMINAR NORMS

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*Don’t raise hands
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*Base opinions on the text

*Address comments to the group (no side conversations)
*Use sensitivity- take turns and not interrupt others
*Monitor ‘air time’
*Be courageous
*Be flexible and open-minded
“Woman Reading a Letter”
Ca. 1662-3

Johannes Vermeer
Prior to seminar

- Choosing a text
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- Preparing the questions
- Establishing student expectations
During/Following Seminar

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Good Seminar Topics are...

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PLANNING

• What **topics** do you teach that would lend themselves to Socratic Seminar?
• What **texts** would engage students and encourage discussion?
• How would you ensure **participation** from all your students?
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