**Socratic Seminar**

***Socratic Seminar is a structured, collaborative dialogue, focusing on a common text or resource, which students have analyzed and toward which they have prepared questions to spur the discussion. The elements of a Socratic Seminar are a common text or resource, defined questions, a leader, and participants.***

**Why are Socratic Seminars a critical component of AVID Schoolwide?**

It is through exploration, dialogue, considering new perspectives, and constant questioning that students develop their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Through Socratic Seminars, students develop confidence in articulating their ideas to others while providing supporting evidence with reasoned thinking.

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|  | **Before** | **During** | **After** |
| **Performance Objective** | *Students prepare to participate in the Socratic Seminar* | *Students collaborate to develop and deepen understanding through Socratic inquiry.* | *Students reflect on their learning and the Socratic Seminar process* |
| **Academic Skills** | * Students identify one or more questions based on a common text or resource | * Students articulate their question. * Participants use collaborative inquiry to clarify confusion, and deepen understanding. * Students appropriately use related academic vocabulary and references to the text throughout. | * Students reflect on the learning in order to make connections between new learning and previous learning, their experiences, themselves, and/or their world. * Students reflect on the Socratic Seminar process to continuously improve as active participants. |
| **Guiding Questions** | * What common text or resource will be utilized? * How will students analyze the resource? | * To what resources will students need access? * What Socratic Seminar format will best meet our needs? * Who will serve as the group leader? | * Will students reflect verbally or in writing? Individually or collaboratively? * How will the Socratic Seminar be evaluated? |

**Resource Guide**

**Home Page**

* Overview of Socratic Seminar - a summary of the Socratic Seminars strategy and supporting resources
* Research Base - the supporting research describing how Socratic Seminars support college-readiness

**Quick-Start Resources**

* Quick Start Tips - suggestions for enhancing students’ skills during Socratic Seminars, as well as additional ideas to consider before, during, and after
* Lesson Plan Resources - a streamlined version of how to initially implement Socratic Seminars, including related resources
* Overview PowerPoint – a PowerPoint presentation to be used with either teachers or students to assist in implementing Socratic Seminars

**Refining Resources**

* Variations: Classic Style - Activity summary and related resources for the Classic Style version of Socratic Seminar
* Variations: Fishbowl - Activity summary and related resources for the Fishbowl Formation version of Socratic Seminar
* Variations: Triad Formation - Activity summary and related resources for the Triad Formation version of Socratic Seminar
* Teacher Resources – Additional resources for teachers to refine their initial implementation
* Student Handouts – Additional resources for students deepen their learning and skill development
* Troubleshooting Guide - Responses to common questions and challenges related to implementing Socratic Seminars

**Content-Specific Resources**

* ELA Resources - examples and resources for conducting Socratic Seminars in ELA classes
* Math Resources - examples and resources for conducting Socratic Seminars in Math classes
* Science Resources - examples and resources for conducting Socratic Seminars in Science classes
* History Resources - examples and resources for conducting Socratic Seminars in History classes
* AVID Elective Class Resources – sample lessons demonstrating Socratic Seminars from Weeks at a Glance
* Elementary Resources – resources from AVID Elementary Foundations which develop foundational skills related to Socratic Seminars

**Professional Learning Resources**

* AVID Professional Learning Workshop - A PowerPoint, syllabus and handouts for providing Professional Learning related to Socratic Seminars
* Schoolwide Strategy Planning Guide - Guiding questions and an example vignette to support planning for schoolwide implementation.