

Graded Socratic Seminar:

Your class will be participating in a graded Socratic Seminar next class. The goal of a S.S. is to create a sustained, student-led discussion in which all voices are heard, and students listen to each other actively and respond to each other thoughtfully.

Each member of the class is expected to participate at **least once**. Part of your grade for this will include a list of at least **three** talking points that you will list on a worksheet. These should be statements/questions that you are prepared to talk about with reference to evidence you will use to support your interpretations. You need to have one talking point from **each assigned source**:

1. **“The Danger of a Single Story”** by Chimamanda Adichie (TedTalk)
2. **“Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed”** by Ray Bradbury (short story)
3. **“Black Men and Public Spaces”** by Brent Staples (essay)
4. **“Recitatif”** by Toni Morrison (short story)
5. **“Halfbreed Girl in the City School”** by Jo Whitehorse Cochran (poem)
6. **“Museum Indians”** by Susan Power (short story)
7. **“Ritchie Valens”** by Myrlin Hepworth (poem)

Grading:

An example of a talking point is one that raises a question, complicates an idea the author creates, or makes a connection to personal experience or one’s community.

EX.: I was really interested in the tone shift in Susan Power’s “Museum Indians.” I think the tone shifted from a _____ tone to a _____ tone on page ____, but I am not sure how the author conveyed that tone shift. Does anyone else have insight into how she created that shift?

Participation means:

- 1) An original response to the source that demonstrates close reading/engagement with the material.
- 2) A response to a peer’s observation that reveals active listening/critical analysis of thoughts presented in class and evidence of close reading.
- 3) Utilizing specific components of the texts as evidence and staying “on topic”
- 4) Being mindful of how many times one speaks—I need to hear all voices and every voice needs the time/opportunity to speak.

Name: _____

Socratic Seminar Preparation

For each text you read, generate one text-based discussion question to bring to the seminar and select a quote from the text that connects to each question (thus ensuring it is text-based!). There should be higher-level questions that have no single right answer and will encourage discussion. Areas to consider for questions:

- o Ask “Why?” about the author’s choices in the text, about a person’s motivation, about a situation described in the text, etc.
- o Ask about viewpoint or perspectives (realist, pessimist, optimist, etc.)
- o Examine the title, or tone of the text, or connect to current issues, theme, etc.
- o Ask questions that explore your own interpretation of the reading.
- o Ask about importance: “So what . . . ?” “What does it matter that . . . ?” “What does it mean that . . . ?”

Text name, author and page number	Question	Evidence/Support for your question

