SOCRATIC SEMINAR GUIDELINES

Preparation for Seminar:
Review the readings from the morning sessions this past week. Highlight places that raise essential questions and important issues.
Generate a set of questions that might address:
- Motives
- Problems
- Solutions
- Connections to the real world
- Different points of view
- Author’s opinion
- Universality of the theme

Facilitation Guidelines:
- Teacher participates as a questioner only
- Answer questions with another question
- Redirect students’ attention to the text
- Ensure everyone participates
- Ask clarifying questions and follow up questions
- Keep participants directing discussion to each other rather than to teacher
- Help paraphrase and restate ideas to keep discussion going
  - What I heard you say was
  - What I thought I heard Keith say was
  - Can you compare Heather’s response to what you heard Keith say?
  - Where is the evidence in the text for what you said?
  - We haven’t heard from you, what are you thinking?
  - Could you clarify your idea?
  - Does anyone have a different opinion?

Participant Guidelines:
- Use eye contact and names of those you are directing comments towards
- Paraphrase what you think you heard or understand from another participant
- Stick to the topic, use evidence from the text
- Elaborate on others’ ideas
  - I agree with
  - I respectfully disagree with
  - I think I understand what _____ said and would like to add
  - I am not sure what ________ means and wonder if __________