

## The Role and Responsibilities of the Socratic Seminar Participant

### Before the Seminar

- Read the text or consider the artifact/prompt carefully.
- Use highlighters to mark crucial portions of the text.
- Make notes in the margins.
- Look for places where the author is stating his or her views, arguing for them, or raising questions.
- Write Level 2 or 3 questions (Costa's Levels of Thinking).
- Make connections between parts of the text by using your margin notes.
- Think about what you have read and how you understand it.
- Make connections between the ideas in the text and what you know from your life experiences.

### During the Seminar

- Be prepared to participate; the quality of the seminar is diminished when participants speak without preparation, or do not participate at all.
- When appropriate, refer to the text; a seminar is not a test of memory.
- Ask for clarification when you are confused.
- Take turns speaking instead of raising hands.
- Listen carefully and actively to other participants.
- Speak clearly so all can hear you.
- Address other participants, not the seminar leader.
- Discuss the ideas of the text, not each other's opinions.
- Show respect for differing ideas, thoughts, and values.
- Give evidence and examples to support your responses.
- Help fellow participants clarify questions and responses.
- Keep your mind open to new ideas and possibilities.

### After the Seminar

- Reflect on your participation as an individual and the group as a whole.
- Discuss with your group parts of the seminar you think went well and which skills you and your fellow participants still need to improve.
- Use writing to think about both the process and the content of the seminar.
- Be prepared to help set goals for improvement in the next seminar.

Custer, H., Donohue, J., Hale, L., Hall, C., Hiatt, E., Kroesch, G., Krohn, B., Malik, S., Muhammad, F., Quijano, V., Shapiro, D., & Valdez, S. (2011). *AVID postsecondary strategies for success: A guide for faculty and student affairs professionals*. San Diego, CA: AVID Press.