Socratic Seminar: A Student-Led Dialogue about a Provocative Text

Central Questions:

What is a Socratic Seminar?

• A dialogue about a text that all students have read.
• A discussion that involves an exchange and sharing of ideas.
• A discussion in which the teacher has little involvement and only facilitates.
• NOT a debate!

What is the Structure?

A timed conversation among the students in your Humanities class in which:

• The teacher sits outside the circle and listens.
• Students discuss a text, using clear summaries, quotations and specific examples.
• Every student participates by expressing his/her viewpoint and by encouraging others to speak.

What Will I be Assessed on?

• **Preparation:** You will need to prepare by writing a thesis, collecting evidence from the text, and writing historical analyses for each piece of evidence.
• **Ideas During Seminar:** You will need to ask the group good questions, make deep reflections based on your reading, and quote from specific parts of the text.
• **Oral Communication Skills:** During the seminar, you will be assessed on how clearly you speak, your volume (loud enough) and your eye contact with the other members of the group.
• **Participation/Group Skills:** During the seminar, you will be graded on how much you contribute, listen, and encourage others to speak.