Socratic Seminar:
Strategies for Active Classroom Participation

Ways to make comments on the central question

• I believe that ________________ was the primary motivation for the Mexican war because...
• In my opinion, ________________ was the primary motivation for the Mexican war because...
• The evidence suggests that ________________ was the primary motivation for the Mexican war.

Ways to agree or affirm an opinion

• I agree with ______________ because ________________ ...
• As ______________ said, ______________ ... 
• My opinion is similar to ______________’s idea. I think that....

Ways to disagree

• I disagree with ______________ because ______________ ... 
• I don’t agree with ______________ because ______________... 
• My idea is different from ______________’s idea.

Ways to hold the floor

• As I was saying...
• If I could finish my thought...
• What I was trying to say was...

Asking others’ opinions

• What do you think?
• Do you agree, ______________?

Asking for clarification

• What do you mean, ______________?
• Will you explain that again, ______________?
• I have a question about that.

Adapted by Shannon Carey from Kate Kinsella’s activities
Source: http://teachinghistory.org/teaching-materials/english-language-learners/24617
Name:

### Reflections on the Socratic Seminar
Think of at least four things you did well, and four ways you can improve...

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<tr>
<th>What I did well...</th>
<th>What I can improve on...</th>
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