

The Great Gatsby Socratic Seminar

What is a Socratic Seminar?

A Socratic Seminar is a scholarly discussion in which student opinions are shared, proven, refuted, and refined through dialogue with other students. Socratic Seminars are generally student-lead with little teacher input or interaction.

For this assessment, you will share your ideas, ask questions, and discuss themes and important ideas from *The Great Gatsby*. Your contributions to the discussion will be evaluated and your grade on this assessment will be determined by the quality of what you say in relation to the text (not the movie) and the questions asked.

So...What do I do?

- Speak a minimum of four times
 - Provide at least three direct quotes from the text to support your analysis
 - Three detailed, specific examples = one quote
- Use the Four A's
 - Agree: "I agree with what you are saying about _____ because _____."
 - Add: Offer up a new detail or idea
 - Assert: "I hear what you are saying, but I don't agree because _____."
 - Ask: A clarifying question
- Show evidence of listening to others
 - Use transitional phrases ("That's correct, and...")
 - Add onto or debate what your peers have said
 - Paraphrase what has been said for clarification
 - Be respectful of those who are talking whether you have all of your points or not

In a Socratic Seminar, no hand-raising is required. Students will listen and take turns discussing as they would in a conversation. This means students may have to assert themselves to be heard the required number of times, and students who are very talkative may need to dial it back so students who haven't received full points may have a chance to do so. Help each other out!

What to Bring:	What Not to Bring:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>The Great Gatsby</i> book ● Notes on paper (can be printed or handwritten) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Themes/ideas to discuss ○ Signpost & notes (will be handing in after) ○ Quotes/examples to support themes/ideas ○ Four A's and Transitional Phrases handout ○ This assignment sheet ● A writing utensil (to take notes of what others have said) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Printed notes from Sparknotes, etc. ● Chromebooks ● Music devices/phones ● Work for another class

How will I be graded?

Grades are determined by both the number of times you participate and the quality of your contributions. Every time you speak, you will receive tally marks on a chart. If you speak a minimum of four times, provide three relevant direct quotes from the text, use the four A's, and show evidence of listening to others, you will earn a score of "proficient" on this assessment. Talking out of turn either during your own seminar or while you are observing will result in a loss of points.

What if I miss it or do not pass?

You will be responsible for attending the make-up session during extended year (date and time to be determined) in which a combined seminar will be formed between both Mrs. Andrusiak's and Mrs. McPherson's English 11 classes.