

Academic Language Scripts for Socratic Seminar

Clarifying

- Could you give us an example of that?
- I have a question about that: ...?
- Could you please explain what _____ means?
- Would you mind repeating that?
- I'm not sure I understood that. Could you please give us another example?
- Would you mind going over the instructions for us again?
- So, do you mean ... ?
- What did you mean when you said ...?
- Are you sure that ...?
- I think what _____ is trying to say is....
- Let me see if I understand you. Do you mean _____ or _____?
- Thank you for your comment. Can you cite for us where in the text you found your information?
- If I understand you correctly, you are saying...
- In other words...
- To summarize...
- One thing I am confused about is...
- Your main point is...

Probing for Higher Level Thinking

- What examples do you have of ... ?
- Where in the text can we find...?
- I understand . . . , but I wonder about. . . .
- How does this idea connect to ... ?
- If _____ is true, then . . . ?
- What would happen if . . . ?
- Do you agree or disagree with his/her statement? Why?
- What is another way to look at it?
- How are _____ and _____ similar?
- Why is _____ important?
- How do you know that? Can you give an example?
- Is there another way to look at this?

Building on What Others Say

- I agree with what _____ said because
- You bring up an interesting point, and I also think
- That's an interesting idea. I wonder . . . ? I think Do you think . . . ?
- I thought about that also, and I'm wondering why . . . ?
- I hadn't thought of that before. You make me wonder if . . . ? Do you think . . . ?
- _____ said that. . . . I agree and also think. . . .
- Based on the ideas from _____, _____, and _____, it seems like we all think that. . . ."
- That's an excellent point, and I would add...

Expressing an Opinion

- I think/believe/predict/imagine that What do you think?
- In my opinion
- It seems to me that
- Not everyone will agree with me, but

Interrupting

- Excuse me, but (I don't understand.)
- Sorry for interrupting, but (I missed what you said.)
- May I interrupt for a moment?
- May I add something here?

Disagreeing

- I don't really agree with you because
- I see it another way. I think
- My idea is slightly different from yours. I believe that I think that
- I have a different interpretation than you. . . .

Inviting Others into the Dialogue

- Does anyone agree/disagree?
- What gaps do you see in my reasoning?
- What different conclusions do you have?
- _____ (name), what do you think?
- I wonder what _____ thinks?
- Who has another idea/question/interpretation?
- _____ (name), what did you understand about what _____ said?
- We haven't heard from many people in the group. Could someone new offer an idea or question?

Offering a Suggestion/Redirecting the Seminar

- I'm not seeing the connection to the text. Could you point out what and where that connection is?
- Let's remember that our goal is a flow of questions and comments and ideas to be shared rather than a debate to be won. How could your comment be rephrased to reflect our goal?
- Maybe you/we could . . .
- Here's something we/you might try: . . .
- What if we . . . ?
- We seem to be having a debate instead of a dialogue, can we . . . ?
- Who has another perspective to offer that will help us re-focus the conversation?
- Let's look at page _____ and see what we think about. . .