

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Brainstorming Questions & Discussion Topics: Socratic Seminar Preparation

DIRECTIONS: Create 6 questions for the unit Socratic Seminar. You may use 2 from class, but at least 4 must be original (meaning you must come up with them yourself!).

Question #1:	Question #2:
Question #3:	Question #4:
Question #5:	Question #6:

DIRECTIONS: Find at least three quotes that ***SUPPORT*** your position.

Quote #1:	Quote #2:	Quote #3:
Article title: _____ _____	Article title: _____ _____	Article title: _____ _____
Page or Paragraph #: _____	Page or Paragraph #: _____	Page or Paragraph #: _____

DIRECTIONS: Find at least three quotes that you'd like to ***ARGUE AGAINST***.

Quote #1:	Quote #2:	Quote #3:
 Article title: _____ Page or Paragraph #: _____	 Article title: _____ Page or Paragraph #: _____	 Article title: _____ Page or Paragraph #: _____

DIRECTIONS: Find at least three quotes that you find ***INTERESTING or CONFUSING***.

Quote #1:	Quote #2:	Quote #3:
 Article title: _____ Page or Paragraph #: _____	 Article title: _____ Page or Paragraph #: _____	 Article title: _____ Page or Paragraph #: _____

Generic Socratic Seminar Questions

These are simply generic questions. It is better to find and/or create questions that relate directly to a specific text. I have included a sample of questions that revolve around *Oedipus Rex* & *Antigone* underneath these generic questions.

What can we learn from this text?

What historical events may have influenced this text?

What part(s) of this article/story do you find confusing?

Can you clarify what the author meant by -----?

What symbolism did you notice in the text?

What literary devices did the author employ within the text and to what effect?

Which part(s) of the article/text do you disagree with?

Why do you think the author chose to end the article/story in the way that he/she did?

Does the author ever contradict himself/herself within the course of the text?

In your opinion, for what purpose did this author write this for?

What other texts can we compare this text to?

Can anyone relate personally to this text? If so, how?

Can the text be related to any worldly events?

What questions do you still have regarding the text?

Here are some questions I have compiled over the years to use with the following texts: Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*, Sophocles' *Antigone*, and Anouilh's *Antigone*.

Why are Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex* and *Antigone* considered literary classics? And what has made them maintain popularity after this many years?

The whole play is labeled "Scene One" (having a scene one implies there will be at least one more scene)
Purpose?

Researchers have studied the norms of that time period and have concluded that Antigone would have been at or around the age of fifteen. If this is true, how does this affect your interpretation of the story?

Do you think that knowing the ending of the story before it began affected your enjoyment of the play? Why or why not?

Do you believe that Creon's story about Eteocles & Polynices was true or do you feel that it was a persuasion technique to manipulate Antigone? Assuming it was true, do you think Antigone was wrong for continuing to hold onto her beliefs? If Antigone had known of this story before, do you think she still would have buried her brother?

Antigone seems completely focused on death. She chooses to die for her dead brother rather than live for Haemon and her sister, Ismene. Given the tragic outcome of the play, what is Sophocles saying with this? Do you see Antigone as a true martyr or a tragic heroine with misplaced priorities?

Do you think that Antigone was a rebel without a cause?

Once Creon revealed the truth of the matter to her, was she right to continue rebelling against him?

Was she standing up for a legitimate belief or was she seeking death as an easy way out of a difficult moral choice?

What is the point of Anouilh's last scene being that of the guards playing cards?

Which version of Antigone did you like better? Why?

What were some of the themes of the play?

What is the point of having both the protagonist & antagonist have the same fatal flaw (pride)?

Is pride a bigger problem for Creon or for Antigone?

Is Ismene were to have joined Antigone from the beginning, do you feel the outcome would have been any different?

Do you think Antigone ever really wanted Ismene's help in the first place? Or do you think she was hoping that Ismene would refuse?

What was Creon's goal in refusing to bury Polynices?

If Anouilh's Antigone cut out the "gods" and religion...what was the role of Eurydice & her knitting (symbolic of the Fates)?

Would you rather have a leader that puts his family before that of the "state"? or the "state" in front of his family?

Were Antigone's goals at the end of the play accomplished when she is found to have committed suicide?

In Euripides' version of Antigone, both Antigone & Haemon live and have a son. Although much of his text was destroyed, we do know this. How do you feel about this ending?

Which are more important? The laws of man or the laws of religion? ...think about who decides the laws of the state & the laws of religion.

Should religion or religious beliefs play a part in a democratic government?

Which character do you relate most to and why?

Did Antigone die in honor or in vain?

What if Haemon had committed the crime? Creon said that he wouldn't let family change the punishment.

Is it ever wrong to do the right thing?

Do all the dead deserve equal honors?

In Anouilh's Antigone, at the end of the play, Creon continues on with business as usual. What are your reactions to this?

Was Ismene right to not bury her brother?

What was the point of Antigone committing suicide instead of dying of starvation? Was she motivated to commit suicide due to fear? Or due to pride?

Would Creon's death at the end make the story better or worse?

If you could only name one tragic hero of the play, who would you choose and why?

Does Creon or Antigone suffer the greater tragedy?

Do you think the action of the story would have been different if people had known that the House of Thebes was doomed?

Should the play have been called Creon? Why or why not?

Do you think that Sophocles and/or Anouilh were feminists? Why or why not?

Partner Names: _____

Pair Share: Socratic Seminar Preparation

DIRECTIONS: Listen to the questions, discuss these questions with your partner, then record your responses in the spaces provided below.

Our response to QUESTION #1:

Our response to QUESTION #2:

Our response to QUESTION #3:

Our response to QUESTION #4:

Our response to QUESTION #5:

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AFTER SOCRATIC SEMINAR: REFLECTION SHEET

Directions: Answer the following questions after the Socratic Seminar. Use complete sentences.

- (1) How many times do you think you participated by asking a question? (1-5 times, 5-10 times, 10 or more)

- (2) How many times do you think you participated by providing a comment/response?

- (3) Overall, how did you feel about the seminar?

- (4) Using your own knowledge on this topic or issue, create a question to start the seminar.

- (5) What was the best part of the seminar?

- (6) What was the worst part of the seminar?

(7) What is one point someone else said that you agree with? Who said it and what did they say?

(8) Did you say anything that you wish you didn't? If so, what?

(9) As a participant, what area of the process will you work on for next time? How will you improve your participation? Write one goal you'd like to set for the next seminar.

(10) Write one goal that you'd like the WHOLE CLASS to work on during the next seminar.

Socratic Seminar Makeup Assignment

Since you missed our class discussion, which was worth ____ points, please complete the following assignment by _____ to receive credit for the discussion.

Fill out the pre-discussion worksheet. Then choose one **good** discussion question (it must be open-ended, and not a comprehension-level question). Then write a one-page reflection about what you think a possible answer/interpretation could be. This reflection can be hand-written, but it must include at least two references to specific places in the text that support your analysis. This must be your own work; I will not accept any responses that are borrowed (even partially) from another source, like SparkNotes.

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