

SOCRATIC SEMINAR

Discussion Strategies for Various
Learning Environments



OLATHE PUBLIC SCHOOLS USD

Socratic Seminar

Let's discuss!

In-Person or with Safety Measures in Place

1. Students will be given a prompt beforehand, and instructed to prepare arguments, research, and rebuttals.
2. Have students circle up around your classroom.
3. Remind students that only one person speaks at a time in order to maintain order and the ability to respond directly to each other.
4. The teacher can choose to keep track of who speaks and replies to ensure the entire class participates.
5. If a student chooses not to participate, or doesn't complete the predetermined number of comments, they can write a short response encapsulating their research that was done beforehand.

Online Learning

Utilizing Socratic Seminar in a Zoom classroom will take careful attention from the moderator. It is suggested to attempt this with a smaller group before diving into using with whole class.

1. Provide students the prompt or argument for the Socratic Seminar.
2. Students will have been given time to prepare arguments, research and rebuttals.
3. Remind students to keep their Zoom set to Mute.
4. Have students utilize the thumbs up expression to signal that they would like to respond. Then the teacher (as the moderator) can signal to the student by saying their name that they may reply.
5. Repeat until the discussion ends or time runs out.