

Name _____
Freshman Humanities

Mr. Reiff
Fall 2017

Chinese & Indian Unit Final Assessment: The Socratic Seminar

Topic: Are the ancient teachings of Indian and Chinese scholars still relevant in our lives today? How can we apply these teaching in order to have a more harmonious existence?

Date: Nov. 13th & 15th, 2016 (Mon & Wed)

Assessment:

Your grade will come from your participation in the seminar itself. This part of the grade will be based on a number of factors:

- How often and well you responded to the comments of others
- **How often you referenced the texts and other quotes that you have gathered**
- How often you raised a valid and thoughtful question.
- On the negative side, how often you went off on tangents or made statements based more on your emotional responses than on text

All participants must follow the standard Socratic Seminar rules, which are as follows:

- We are courteous
- We focus on and refer to the common text
- We listen to one another, and speak when no one else is speaking
- We share our point of view
- We disagree, but respectfully and with no sarcasm or *ad hominem* (look it up) attacks
- We learn together

How Do I Get Started?

You will begin this process by researching and answering each of the following core questions. You should highlight your talking points. Make sure you've inserted notes where necessary (they will be remarkably valuable during the seminar). You will be allowed to use these notes during seminar. If you have a copies amount of organized notes, you should have plenty of fuel for the seminar.

The Four Core Questions

Day 1

1. What do the philosophies and religions we've studied in this unit teach us about man's relationship with nature?
2. Would you rather have parents that subscribe to the principles of Lao Tzu or the principals of Confucius?

Day 2

3. Compare & contrast the ideas and principals in The Ancient Indian Texts with some of the ideas we've read about in the Old Testament?
4. How can you apply the principles of Sun Tzu to become a better student?

Socratic Seminar Rubric

Reiff
Freshman Humanities

Name _____

Socratic Seminar Rubric	Listening/Engagement— participation in discussion and on-task	Use of Text— support of ideas with text;	Conduct—encouragement of group; participation is civilized and respectful	Insight— Thoughtful questions/ significant connections or new ideas
5 Exemplary	Demonstrates thoughtful and active participation throughout seminar. Consistently stays on task. Comments indicate perceptive listening and connect directly to what has been said.	Initiates specific references to text to support and defend ideas <u>without external prompting</u> .	Contributes to the success of the group and makes invitations by name to include and support all participants. Is consistently nonjudgmental and respectful.	Questions/ comments are insightful, logical and contribute to deeper meaning. Presents new ideas and makes connections to previous/outside topics.
4 Accomplished	Demonstrates active participation throughout seminar. Stays on task. Listens and is able to respond to ideas/ questions from others.	Makes specific references to text to support ideas. Uses text effectively when challenged to do so.	Demonstrates respect and enthusiasm attempting to include and support all participants. Makes invitations to participants.	Questions and comments are apt, logical, and relevant but <u>do not necessarily offer significantly new insights or ideas</u> .
3 Average	Demonstrates active participation through most of seminar. Stays on task most of the time. Generally listens but is not always attentive as evident in some unconnected responses.	Occasionally makes references to text to support and defend ideas but may have to be challenged to do so.	Demonstrates general respect for the group but is not always supportive and inclusive. May at times be judgmental or impatient of others.	Questions/ comments are logical but do not move the group forward to a deep understanding. Some ideas may be off topic.
2 Needs Improvement	Participates in seminar although may be off task. May carry on side conversations. Comments are relevant to topic but lack connection to what has been said by others.	Makes few references to text and is unable to defend origin of ideas when challenged to do so.	Speech and manner suggest a lack of support or respect. Lacks awareness of group dynamics by conversing with same people.	Questions and comments reveal personal reactions but lack logic and/or insight.
1 Undeveloped	Is a passive observer of seminar or is off task. Side conversations are frequent. Does not listen adequately; comments are random and may be irrelevant.	Makes no references to text to support ideas. Ideas appear "off the cuff."	Makes no attempt to be inclusive. Uses disrespectful language. Centers dialogue on self or specific classmates.	Questions and comments are illogical, difficult to follow and offer no benefit to the group.