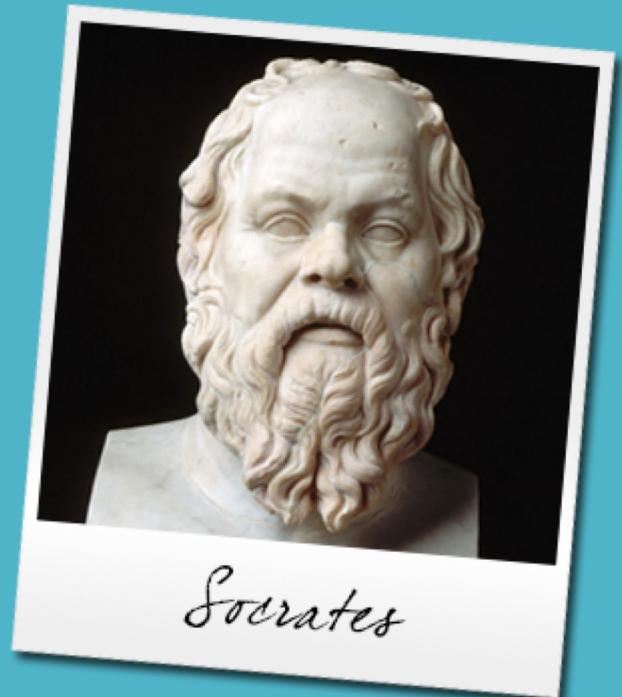


# SOCRATIC SEMINAR

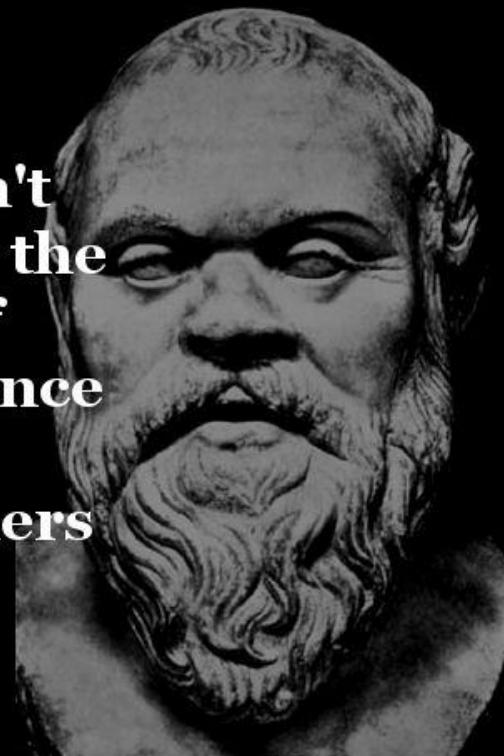
A STUDENT-CENTERED APPROACH TO  
ADDRESSING HOT QUESTIONS

LAURA HINDS  
INSTRUCTIONAL COACH  
MURRAY MIDDLE SCHOOL



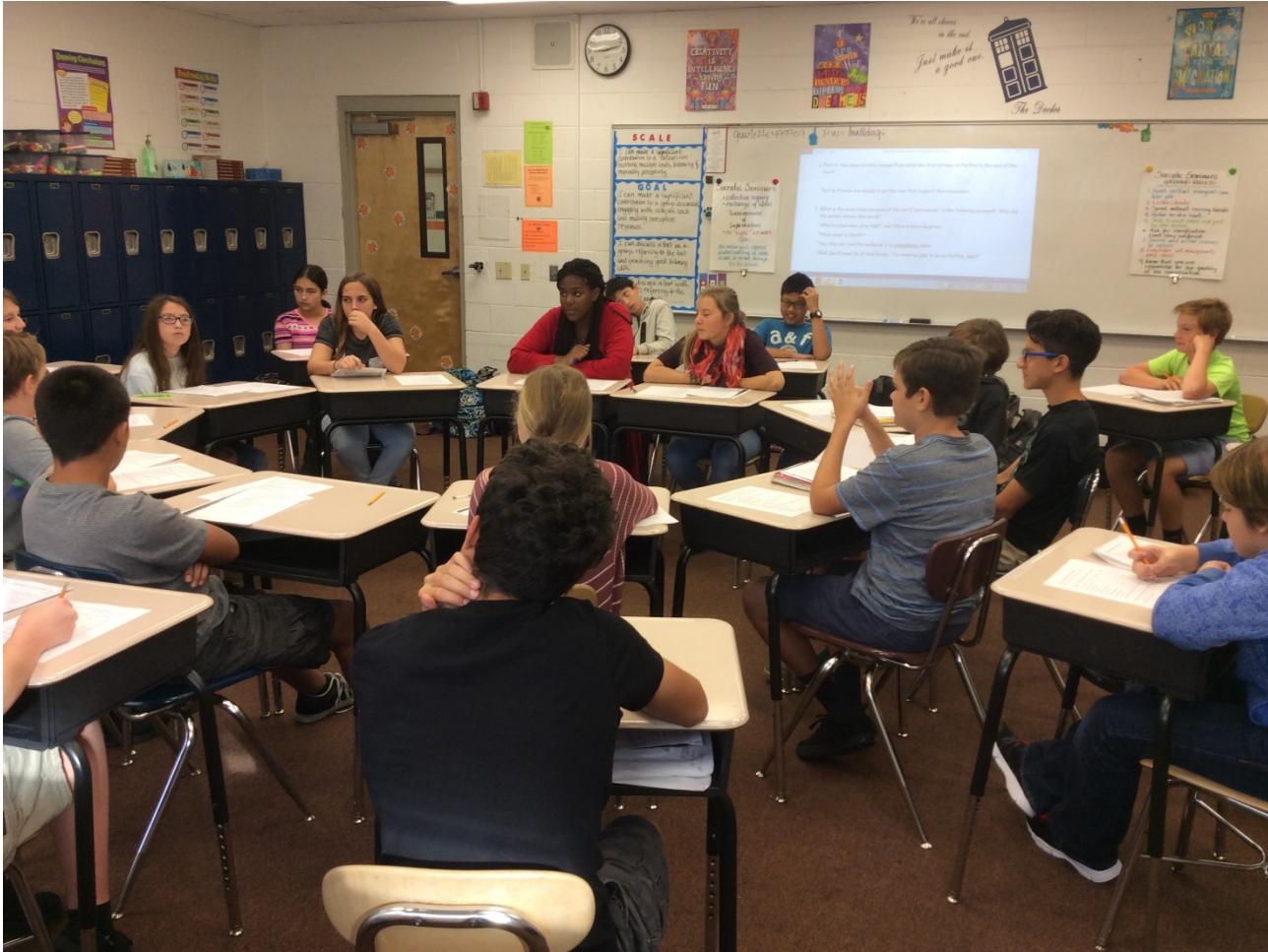
**I know you won't  
believe me, but the  
highest form of  
Human Excellence  
is to question  
oneself and others**

**– Socrates**



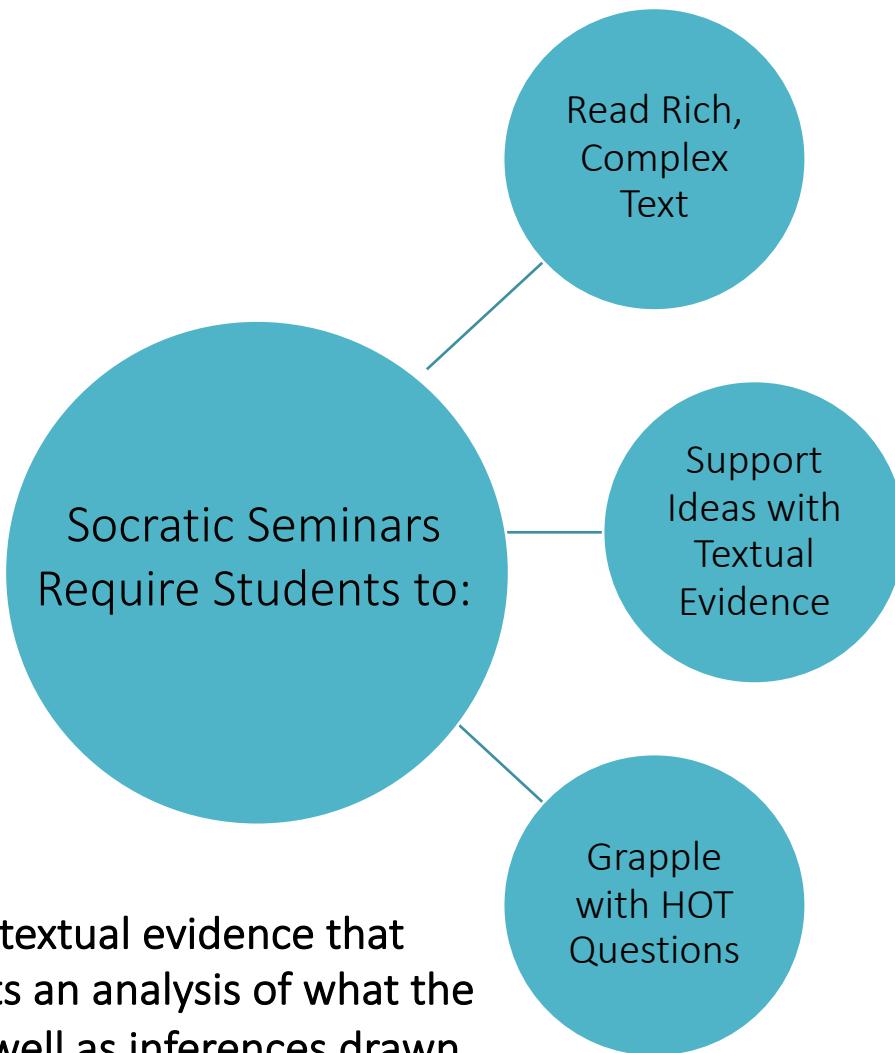
# Learning Goal & Scale

4	I successfully implement Socratic Seminars in my classroom and use them to evaluate and critique my students' understanding of texts, problems, or ideas.
3	I understand how to organize and manage Socratic Seminars and feel confident about implementing them in my classroom.
2	I have used Socratic Seminar, or some variation of it, in my classroom, but I want more information.
1	I have heard of Socratic Seminar, but I'm not sure what it is or how to implement it in my classroom.



The Socratic seminar is a formal discussion, based on a text, in which students ask and **discuss open-ended questions**. Students **listen closely** to the comments of others, **thinking critically** for themselves, and **articulate their own thoughts and their responses** to the thoughts of others.

# Socratic Seminar and Reading Standards



LAFS.8.RI.1.1 Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

# Reading, Writing, and Speaking Standards

Let us tenderly and kindly  
cherish therefore, the  
means of knowledge.

Let us dare to read, think,  
speak, and write.

*John Adams*

# Socratic Seminar and Speaking Standards



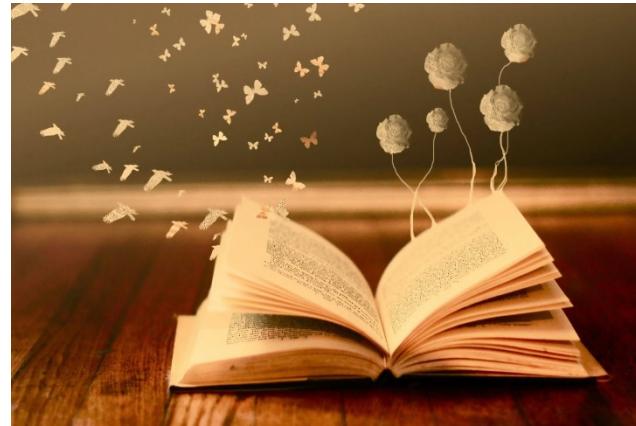
LAFS.8.SL.1.1 : Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

# Four Elements of Socratic Seminar



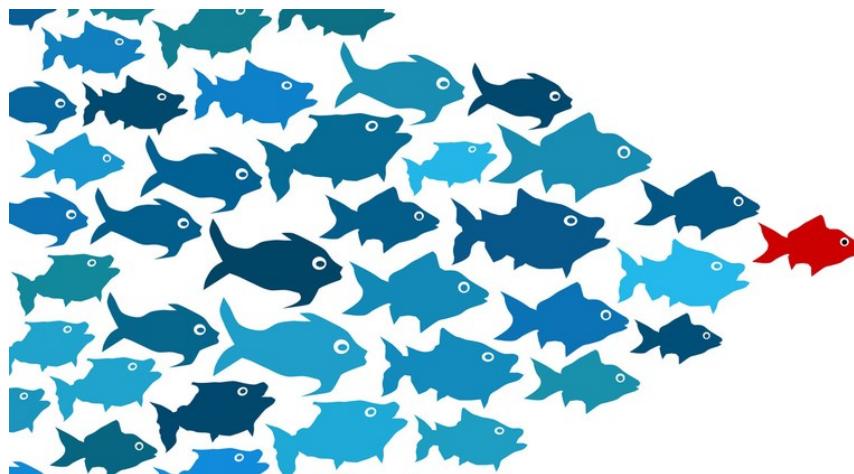
# The Text

Texts should be chosen for their richness of ideas, issues, and values.



# The Leader

The leader plays a dual role as leader and participant.



# The Participants

The participants (students) are responsible for the quality of the seminar.



# The Question

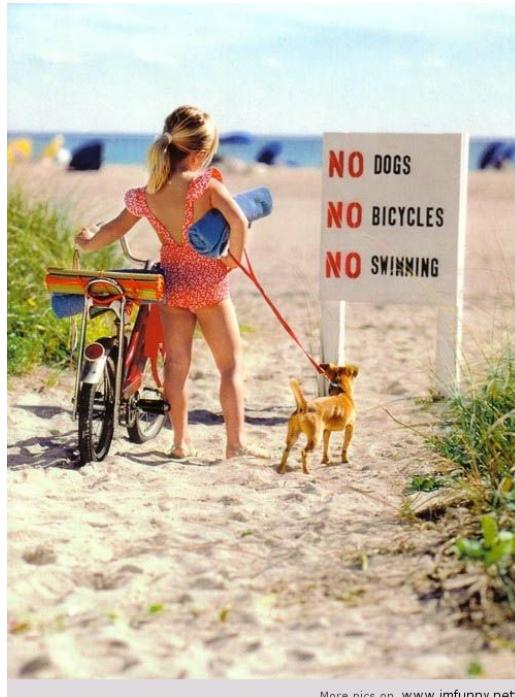
The opening question should be one about which the leader is genuinely curious. It should not have a right or wrong answer.



# Seminar Format

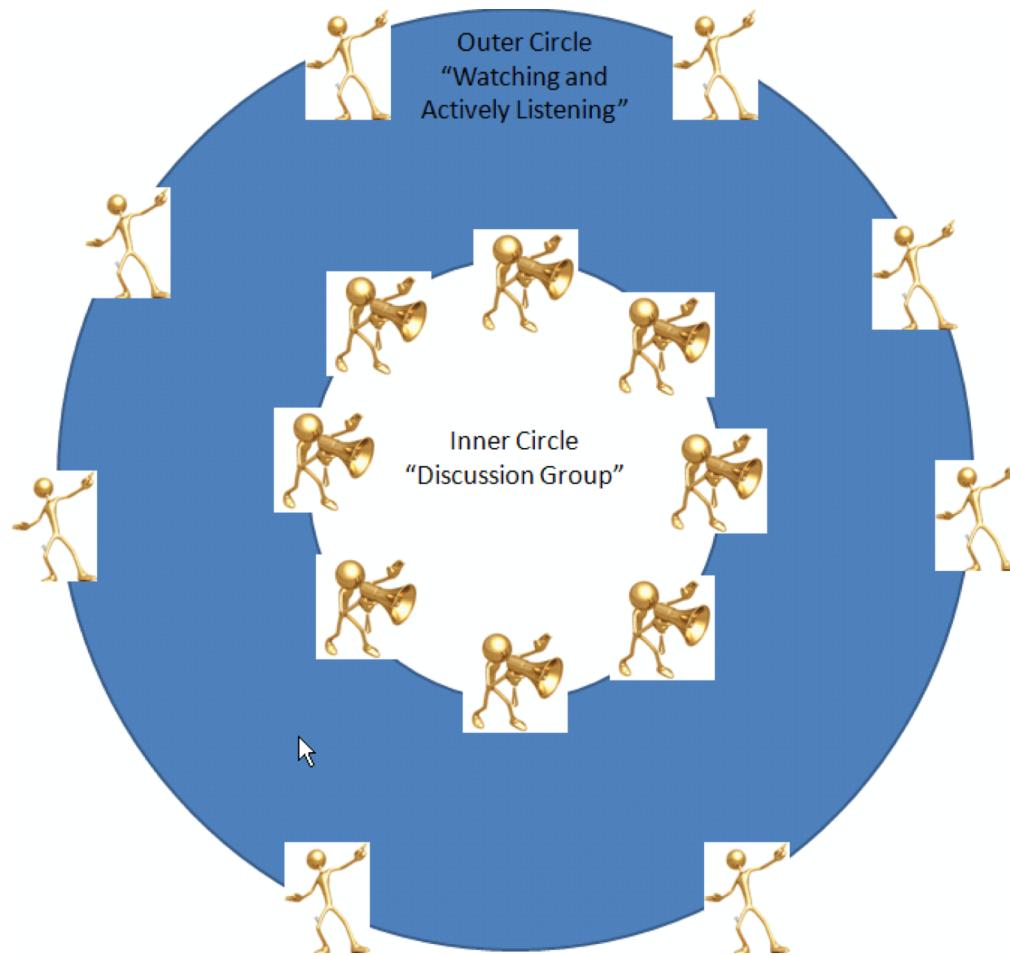


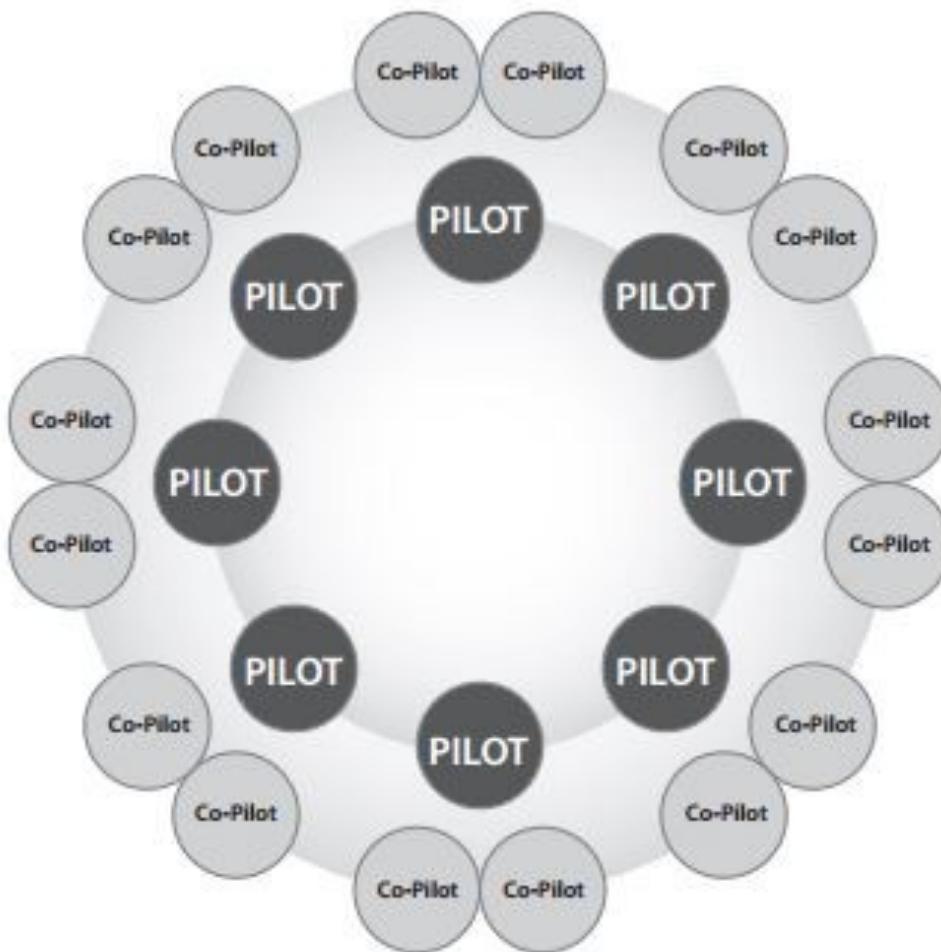
# Management, Rules, & Habits of Mind



More pics on [www.imfunny.net](http://www.imfunny.net)

# Room Arrangement







## Discussion #1

- Inner circle holds discussion
- Outer circle completes feedback form
- 7-10 Minutes



## Feedback

- Outer circle provides feedback
- 1-2 minutes
- Students physically switch circles



## Discussion #2

- New inner circle holds discussion
- Outer circle completes feedback form
- 7-10 minutes



## Feedback

- Outer circle provides feedback
- 1-2 minutes

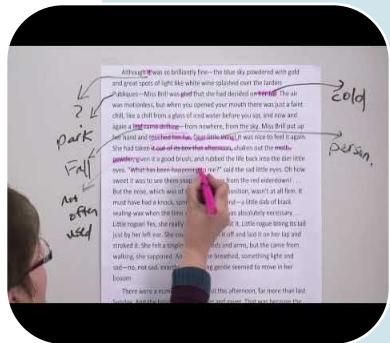


# The Hot Seat

# What am I doing?



# Preparing Students for Socratic Seminar



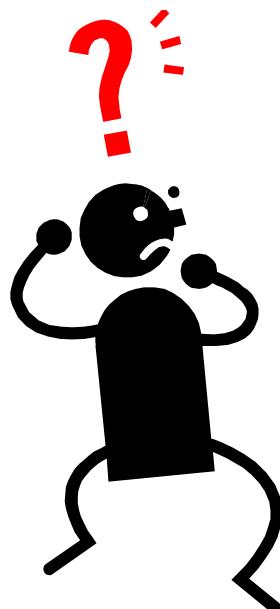






# Model and Practice Discussion

# Train Students to Create HOT Questions



# Socratic Seminar

Example Theme Question:

How is “Salvador Late or Early” about courage?



# Seminars in All Content Areas

