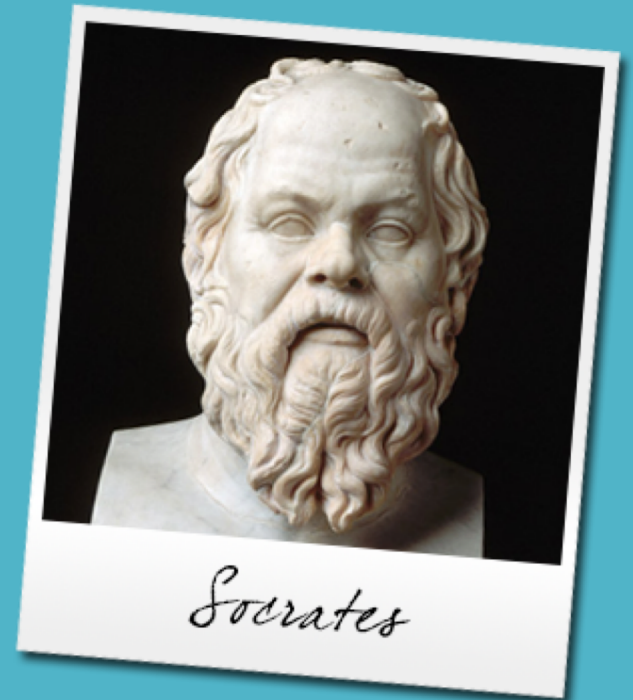


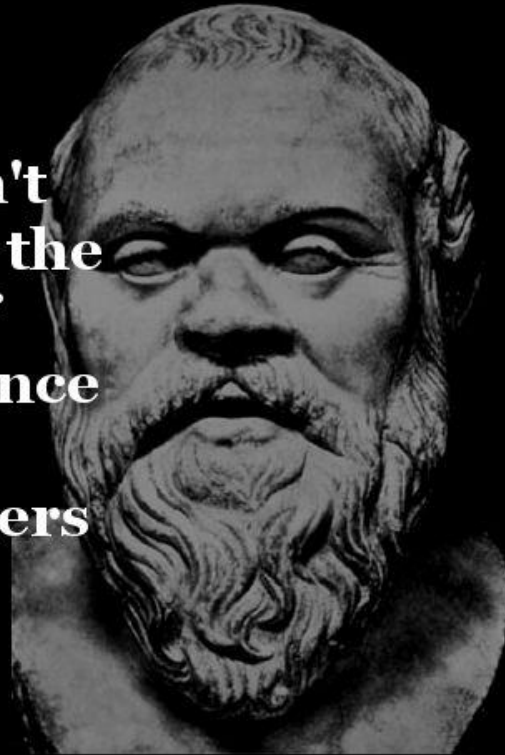
# SOCRATIC SEMINAR

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**



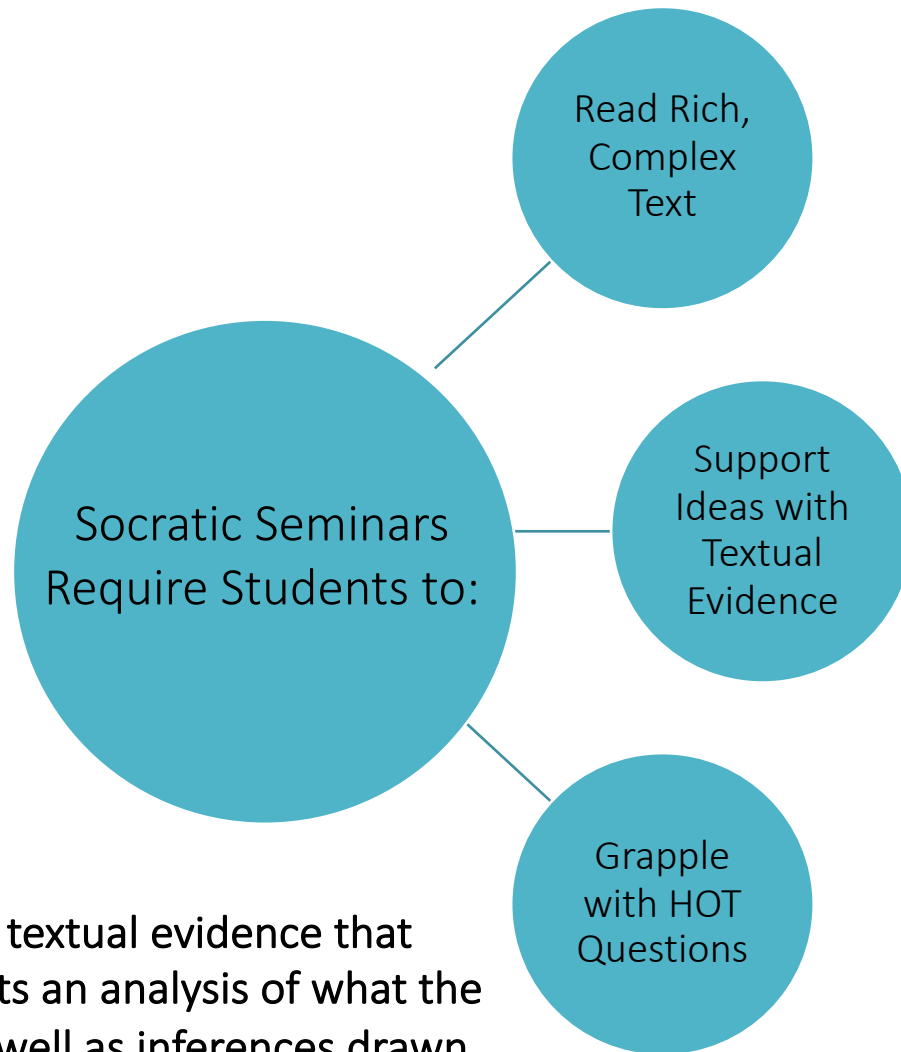
# Learning Goal & Scale

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.



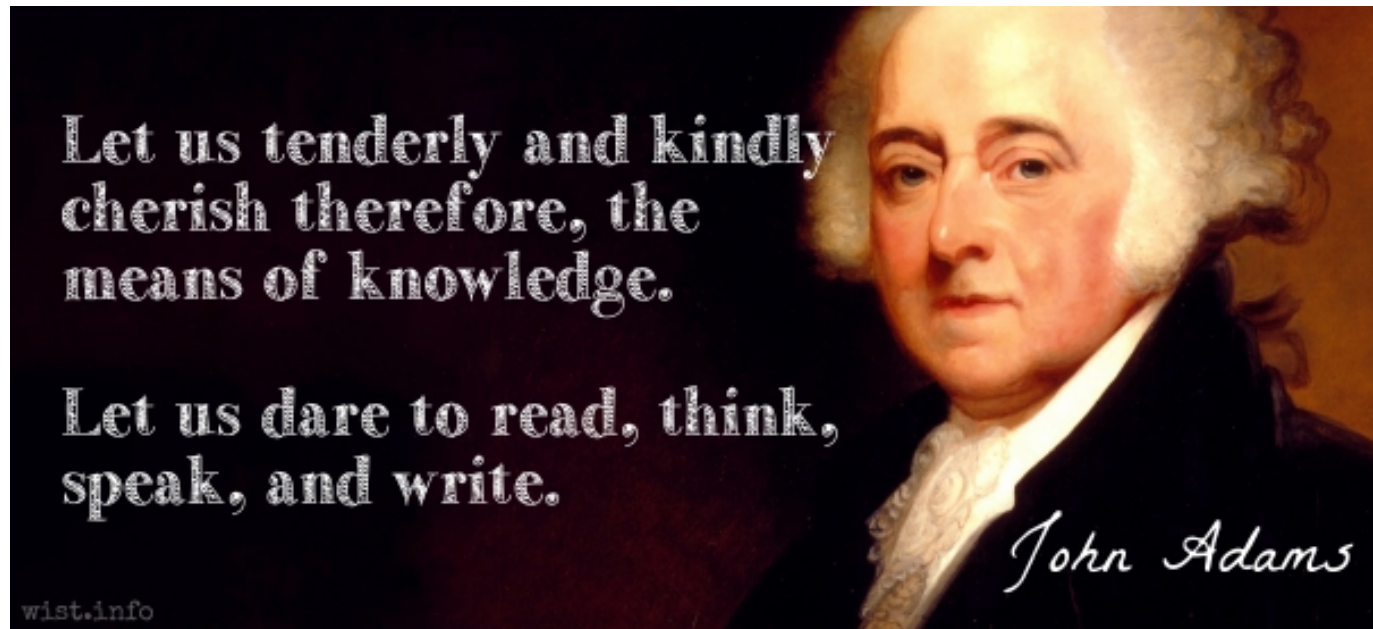
The Socratic seminar is a formal discussion, based on a text, in which students ask and **discuss open-ended questions**. Students **listen closely** to the comments of others, **thinking critically** for themselves, and **articulate their own thoughts and their responses** to the thoughts of others.

# 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





# 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





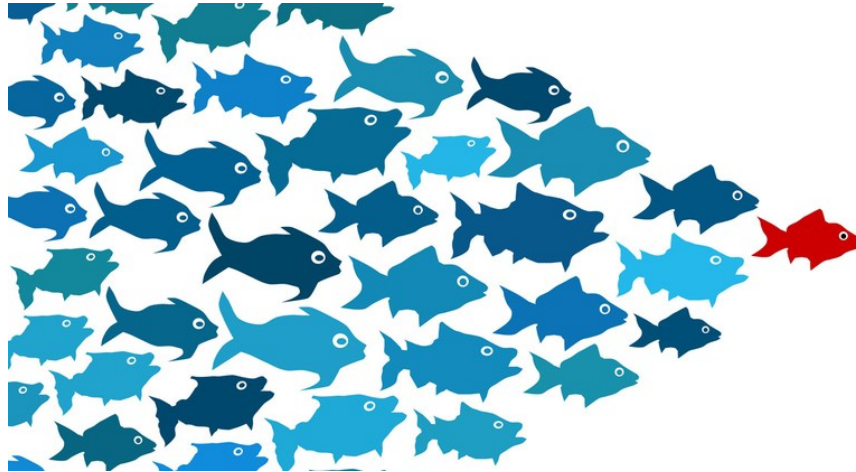
# The Text

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

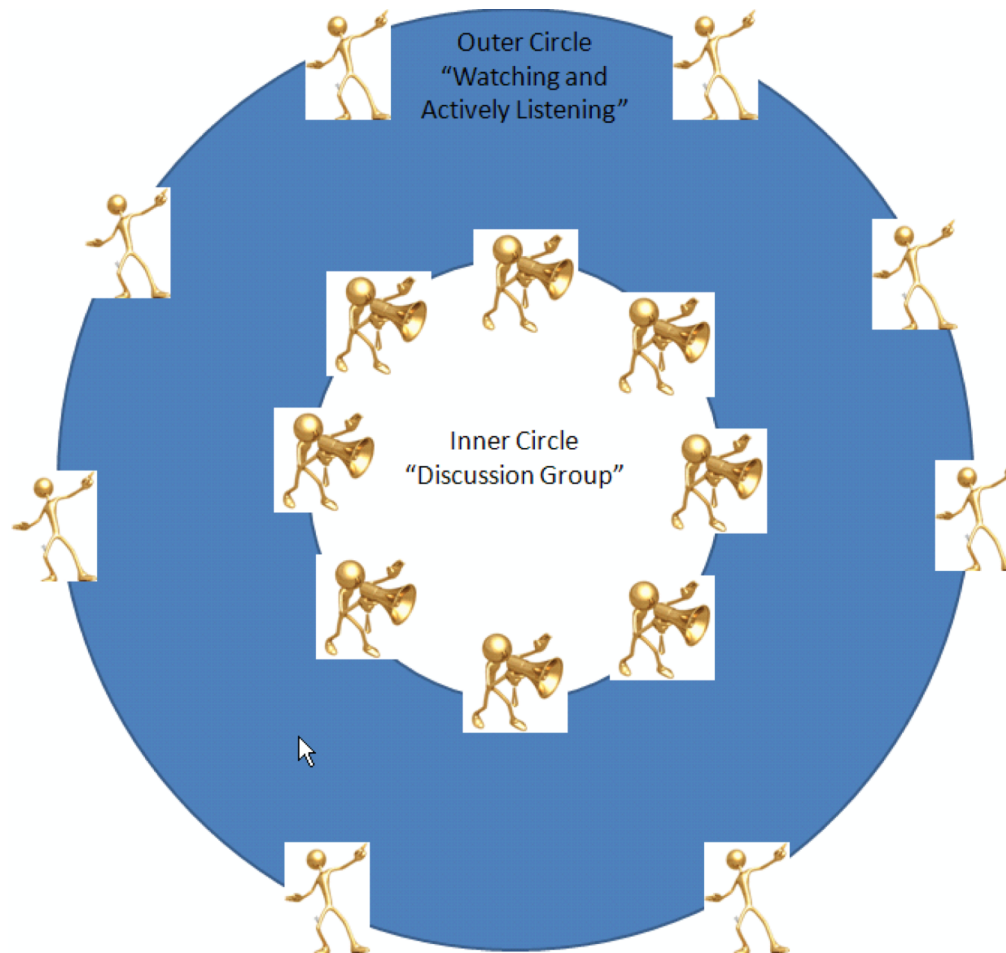


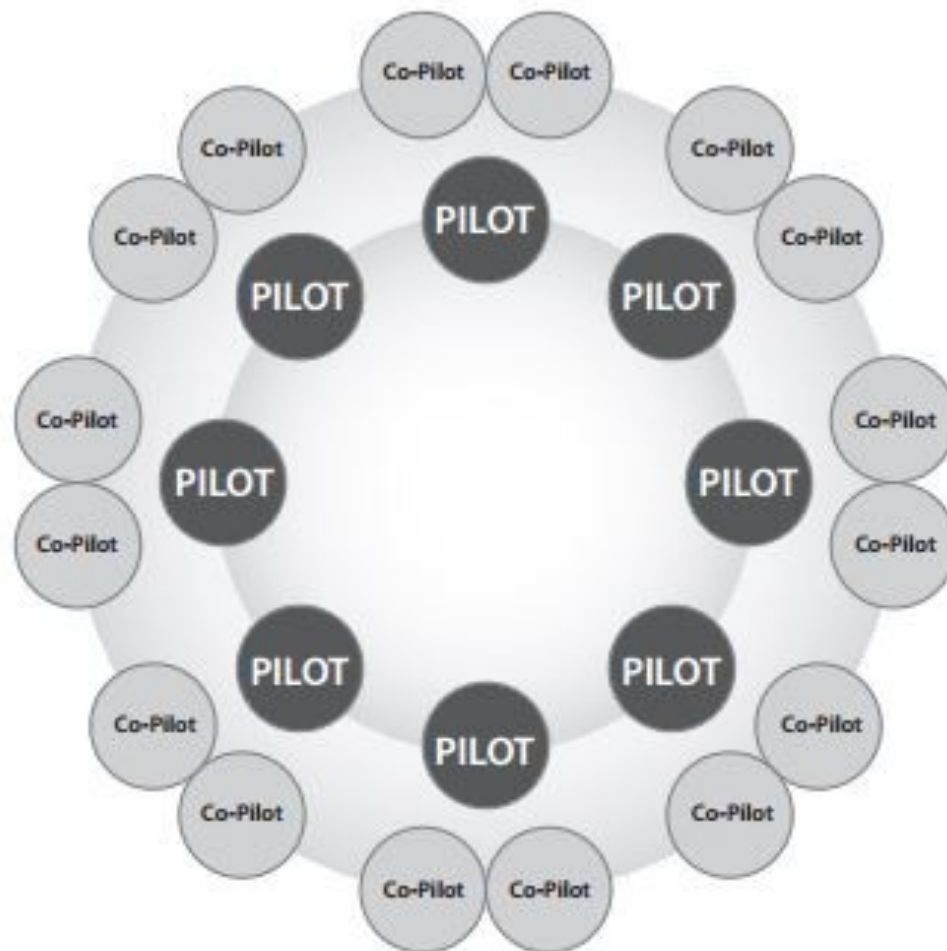


# Management, Rules, & Habits of Mind



# Room Arrangement





Discussion  
#1

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

Feedback

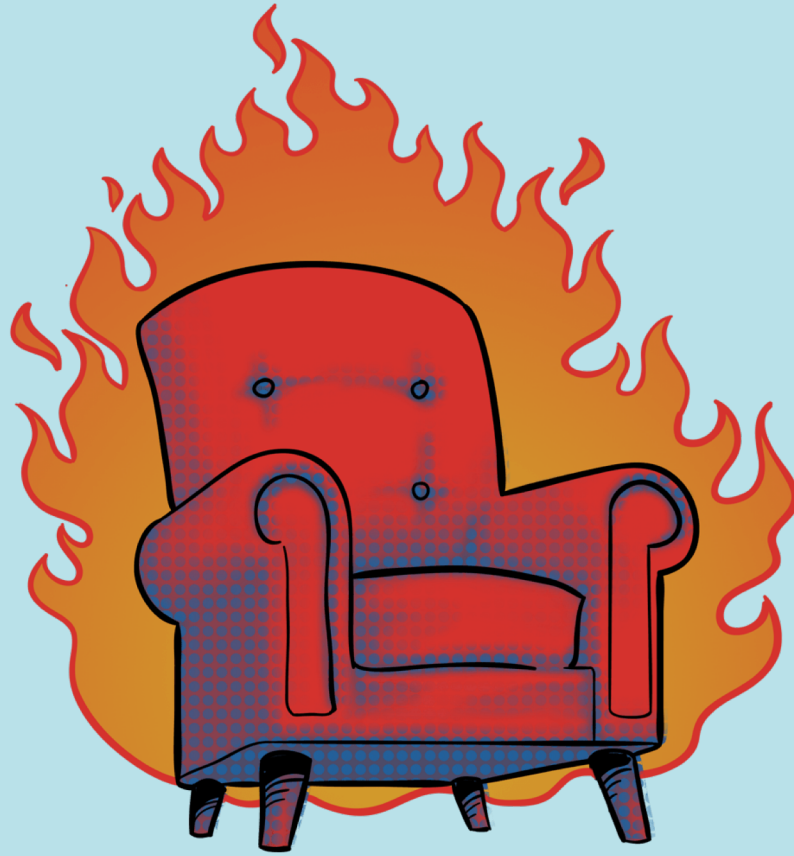
- Outer circle provides feedback
- 1-2 minutes
- Students physically switch circles

Discussion  
#2

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

Feedback

- Outer circle provides feedback
- 1-2 minutes



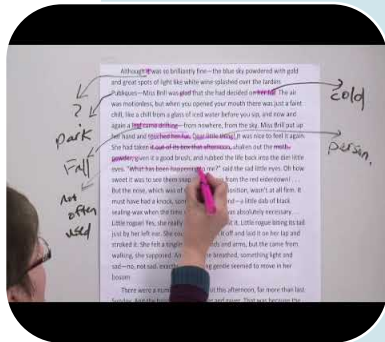
# The Hot Seat



# What am I doing?



# Preparing Students for Socratic Seminar





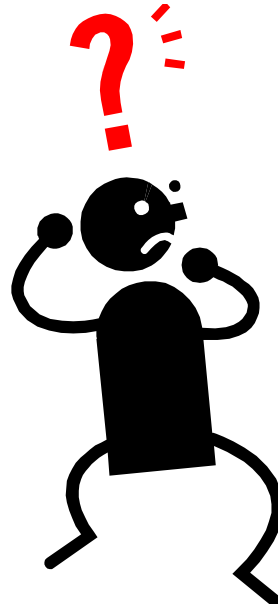




# Model and Practice Discussion



# Train Students to Create HOT Questions



# Socratic Seminar

Example Theme Question:

How is “Salvador Late or Early” about courage?



# Seminars in All Content Areas

