Romeo and Juliet Socratic Seminar

In preparation for the Socratic Seminar, answer the following questions in your notebook. Each question should be answered thoroughly with textual support and personal insights. After you develop your responses to each question, devise TWO questions to pose to the entire class. You will be graded on the depth of your answers in your participation in the Socratic Seminar.



Rules of Socratic Seminar:

- Be on time in your seat when then bell rings with Romeo and Juliet text and notebook.
- You will discuss some of the questions as a class. I will mediate by assigning some students
 to ask specific questions, but the discussion is up to you. This is a conversation between
 students. Not student and teacher.
- One person talks at a time. Speak up so everyone can hear you.
- Be courteous, no jeering. Respect different thoughts and ideas. You can disagree with someone's analysis, but you should be focused on discussion rather than debating.
- Pay strict attention to each person as he/she speaks and listen carefully when you are waiting to speak. You will not receive points for repeating somebody else's information. You will lose points if you talk to your neighbor, doodle, make faces at classmates, etc. (Possible 5 points for being a STELLAR audience member ©)
- You MUST participate at least 2 times. Failure to participate will result in failure of this
 assignment. Simple saying "I agree" will not earn you points. You must explain and expand
 on all ideas. Use textual support. You will be graded on the analysis and depth of your
 answers.
- After you speak 5 times, you are cut off! Let other's have a turn. You will lose points if you
 dare speak a 6th time.

Rubric (5 points possible for each participation)

- 5 Responded to the question with in-depth analysis and textual support that promoted more discussion
- 4 Responded to the question with analysis and (possibly textual support)
- 3 Responded to the question with some analysis and mainly summary (possibly textual support)
- 2 Responded to the question with summary; lack on in-depth analysis; no textual support
- 1 Responded to the question with a short comment that leaves the discussion hanging; no textual support

Discussion Questions

- 1. Who and what is ultimately responsible for the tragedy/deaths of Romeo and Juliet? Fate? The lovers? Their families? What actions in the chain of events, if avoided, could have changed the play's outcomes/end?
- 2. Has Friar Lawrence's plan (2.3.90-92) worked? Is this a true reconciliation of the two families or merely something temporary caused by the shock of what has happened? Do you think tragedies always lead to peace?
- 3. Do you think Friar Lawrence and the Nurse were good counselors? Why or why not?
- 4. What do you think about Romeo and Juliet's interaction with their parents? Were they too rebellious? If you had to side with either the parents or children, who would you side with?
- 5. Create 1 theme statement (lessons you learned) for Romeo and Juliet and provide examples from the play to support your theme.
- 6. Create TWO questions to ask your classmates in discussion (it needs to be questions that will promote discussion, not a yes or no answer).