

NAME:

PERIOD:

SOCRATIC SEMINAR ACTIVITY SHEET

Topic: American Drug Policy

What is a Socratic seminar?

A Socratic seminar is a way of teaching founded by the Greek philosopher Socrates. Socrates believed that students learn best by asking questions. It is the teacher's job to moderate the discussion instead of leading the discussion.

Why do we have a Socratic seminar?

Socratic seminars help us engage a topic in class. The thought process of working together to understand a topic improves everyone's understanding.

What do we do to prepare for the seminar?

The day prior to the seminar you should complete Step 1 of this activity sheet. It is essential that you prepare complete responses to questions including quotations from the research and compose thought-provoking follow-up questions. Thoroughly understand the topic so that you are ready for any area of discussion.

Prepare notes on these articles:

- CATO: <https://www.cato.org/publications/policy-analysis/four-decades-counting-continued-failure-war-drugs>
- Views from 2015:
 - Democratic: <https://www.republicanviews.org/democratic-views-on-drugs/>
 - Republican: <https://www.republicanviews.org/republican-views-on-drugs/>
- Mexico's Drug War: <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/mexicos-drug-war>
- **In addition**, you need at least three **outstanding** sources on American Drug Policy, impact or similar

What will this Socratic seminar look like?

Seven to eight students will be seated at the front of the classroom for approximately fifteen to twenty minutes (Step 2). This panel will participate in a discussion initially based on the teacher's question. Audience members must be respectful and active listeners (Step 3).

Panel:

- Actively participate without dominating.
- Cite text to support your points.
- Listen carefully and do not interrupt; look the speaker in the eye. Maintain good posture.
- Paraphrase another speaker's comment(s) before responding responsibly.
- Stick to the topic.
- Ask pertinent questions and ask for clarification if you are confused.
- Discuss ideas; do not attack people.

Audience:

- Be respectful of your classmates and listen.
- Take notes.

What do I do after serving on the panel?

Reflect upon your performance (Step 4).

Step 1: Preparation

Below are possible questions that may be asked during the seminar.

How would you grade the current state of the “War on Drugs?”	
Response:	Quotation, fact or point and research used:
Follow-up question(s):	

Why do you think we continue the “War on Drugs?”	
Response:	Quotation, fact or point and research used:
Follow-up question(s):	

Should we end the “War of Drugs?”	
Response:	Quotation, fact or point and research used:
Follow-up question(s):	

What steps would you implement to reduce the flow of illegal narcotics into the United States?	
Response:	Quotation, fact or point and research used:
Follow-up question(s):	

How can we reduce drug abuse?	
Response:	Quotation, fact or point and research used:
Follow-up question(s):	

How can we respond to the addiction epidemic?	
Response:	Quotation, fact or point and research used:
Follow-up question(s):	

What can be done to reduce violence – both here and abroad?	
Response:	Quotation, fact or point and research used:
Follow-up question(s):	

What do you think lawmakers should do going forward regarding drug policy?	
Response:	Quotation, fact or point and research used:
Follow-up question(s):	

Step 2: Panel Participation During your turn on the Socratic Seminar Panel, you must:

- Ask a relevant question that invokes thought from other members of the panel.
- Respond thoroughly to two questions.
- Cite evidence from the research or your articles
- Act as a respectful participant of the panel.

Step 3: Active Audience Answer these questions while you are in the audience and not on the panel.

What is one idea to which you wanted to respond when you were not on the panel?	What would you have said?
What was the most important idea discussed?	Why?
What could have made the conversation more constructive?	

Step 4: Reflection After your turn on the panel, write a summary reflection about what you learned during your discussion. Reflections may include new realizations, ideas that you didn't get a chance to share, what you believe went well, and what you will do differently next time.

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Seminar Panel

Ask a question _____/10

Respond thoroughly to two questions _____/20

Cite evidence from the text (including page number _____/10

Decorum while on the panel _____/10

Seminar Activities

Preparation _____/20

Active Audience _____/10

Decorum while in audience _____/5

Reflection after your panel _____/15

Total _____/100