Discussion Protocol

In this lesson, you will participate in a *Socratic Seminar*, a discussion primarily led by you and your classmates, with minimal intervention by the teacher. The purpose of this conversation is to explore ideas together; you are not trying to “win” the discussion or “beat” the other students. To that end, you will be assessed by how well you are able to work together, rather than by how much you, individually, talk. Be sure to review the rubric with your teacher to better understand the requirements.

Because this kind of discussion works best when there are 8–10 participants, there will be two different roles that students have. You will be seated in two concentric circles, with an inner circle and an outer circle. Here are the responsibilities of each circle:

**Inner Circle:** In the inner circle, your job is to discuss the texts with your classmates. You’ll think about the questions you prepared for, and you will explore possible answers to them. Listen carefully to your classmates so you can build on their ideas; after the discussion, you will write a summary of the key points as well as your reactions to the arguments that were made.

**Outer Circle:** Your job is to listen, observe, and take notes. Your teacher may give you a specific task to complete during the discussion. However, you will not be speaking in the discussion. After the discussion is finished, you will evaluate how your classmates did. You’ll also write a summary of the key points and your reactions to the arguments your classmates made.