

FishBowl Socratic Seminar

Inner and Outer Circle Responsibilities

Fishbowl Directions:

1. A Fishbowl Socratic Seminar requires students to be divided into inner and outer circles.
2. Each round will have two parts, a part A and a part B.
3. During part A of the round, the inner circle will discuss and the outer circle will listen and take notes.
4. During part B of the round, the outer circle will share, ask questions, and provide insights to what they heard during part A.
5. After both circles have shared, the two groups of students switch roles and another round begins.

INNER-CIRCLE RESPONSIBILITIES:

You will engage in the discussion directly, and you will run the conversation almost entirely on your own.

1. Do not raise your hand. You may speak at any time.
2. If more than one person starts to speak at the same time, one should pause and allow the other to speak first; then the second student will speak next before any other members of the group chime in.
3. Be sure to be respectful and allow others to speak. Disagree directly, but politely with each other.
5. Ask each other questions.
6. Answer the questions and include examples and evidence from the text.

OUTER-CIRCLE RESPONSIBILITIES:

Your job is to listen to the discussion and take notes.

1. Note things you feel should have been addressed by the inner circle discussion.

2. Note questions you have that didn't get answered.
3. Note points that you need clarified by inner circle members.
4. Note textual evidence that could further support discussion.
5. You may not speak at all in part A. You will be asked to share your notes during part B of the round.
6. Be sure that you are taking adequate notes to be a part of the conversation.