

U.S. Government Socratic Seminar Guidelines

The purposes of Socratic Seminars are to develop research skills, promote critical thinking, and encourage students to express their views about issues facing citizens and the government, while supporting those views with factual information. For each seminar, a subject or question will be provided to students.

Participants will be responsible for:

- A minimum of two (2) printed articles from credible sources that deal with the subject matter or question (5 points)
- highlighting and margin notes on articles that indicate a thorough reading and information that will be used to support the student's point of view (5 points)
- Participation at least once during the discussion (5 points)
- The use of at least one source as supporting evidence during the discussion (5 points)
- Show respect at all times for others' opinions
- Waiting until called upon by the Seminar leaders to speak
- Making an argument for or against a point of view, not for or against a fellow student (In other words, don't personalize a response)
- Abide by the Cherry Creek High school pledge in Bear Facts at all times
- Seminar leaders will be awarded the full 20 points provided they fulfill the requirements below.

Seminar leaders (two for each seminar) will be responsible for:

- A minimum of two (2) printed articles from credible sources that deal with the subject matter or question (5 points)
- highlighting and margin notes on articles that indicate a thorough reading and information that will be used to develop research-based (5 points)
- A minimum of five research-based questions that are used during the seminar to elicit critical thinking among students (at least two of these questions must be submitted in writing during a scheduled, pre-seminar conference with the teacher) (20 points)
- Facilitating the seminar by calling on students who volunteer their opinions, while ensuring that all students get a chance to speak (10 points)
- When necessary, reminding participants to show respect to anyone speaking

The Seminars should be a fun, relaxed discussion where all views are respected.

**U.S. Government
Sources for Socratic Seminar**

Cherry Creek High School databases

cnn.com

washingtontimes.com

ap.org

nytimes.com

msnbc.msn.com

bbc.co.uk

You may also use other well-established news outlets. Check with me if you are not sure of the credibility of a site.

Use a variety of keyword searches to look for sources. If you are not finding any articles, simplify your search (one or two keywords.) If you are finding articles that are not relevant, refine your search (three or four proper names or specific terms.)