**Socratic Seminar Preparation Guide**

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| Discussion Question/ Claim | Evidence |
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**Roles and Responsibilities**

Speakers: Speakers will be responsible for generating and sustaining an in depth

conversation/discussion based on the artifacts about James Frey.

They must make claims, substantiate claims with evidence, and use

transitions to support or refute others’ claims.

Coaches: Coaches listen and track their respective speaker’s participation in the

discussion. At halftime, they give feedback and rate their player’s

performance.

Scribe: This person will take general notes on the conversation.

Tracker: This person will utilize the board to track, which students participate,

and how often they participate.

Listener: Listeners will be taking general notes on the discussion through a

graphic organizer.

**Fishbowl Discussion Rules**

1. One person speaks at a time.
2. Everyone contributes ideas. No one dominates or withdraws.
3. Use transitions to connect comments.
4. Invite others into the discussion artfully.
5. Agree/disagree with **ideas**, not people.
6. Ask clarifying questions.
7. Support a point with evidence from the text.
8. Use body language and eye contact to  communicate active listening.
9. Stay in a posture of humility, intellectual flexibility, and curiosity.

**Transition Words**

**Rooting Ideas in the Text**  
Your comment reminds me of [quote, idea]...On page...   
A related idea/question/comment is...   
Where do you see that in the text?   
I would like to (re)direct our attention to the [text]. On page...

**Transitioning to a New Topic**  
So far we have discussed [summarize discussion]. I would like to transition us to a new question/ topic...

**Developing Ideas Further**  
A related idea/question/comment is...   
I am unsatisfied with our discussion of [idea] because...   
I agree/disagree with the ***notion*** that...because...   
Building off of [person’s] idea...   
I have a clarifying question for [person]. Are you asking...   
I would like to return to our previous discussion of [idea] because...   
I would like to elaborate upon [person’s] idea...

**Inviting Someone**  
I’m interested in hearing your thoughts on this question, [person]   
Thank you! I’m still thinking. Can you come back to me?

**Synthesize**  
What I am hearing X, Y, and Z say is... These ideas fall beneath the greater question... because...   
According to both X and Y, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. These ideas suggest that...because...   
Based X, Y, and Z’s comments...it seems that we are wrestling with...This is important because...

**Going Deeper in the Text**   
According to both X and Y, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Although I agree with these ideas up to a point, I cannot accept the overall conclusion that...because...   
Even if we accept... we cannot overlook the ambiguity of...because...   
While I concede that....I still disagree with the notion that...because...   
I think we might be overlooking [author’s] assertion that...because...   
Even though on first read it may seem that...a closer reading of the passage  suggests that...   
X’s claim that...rests upon the assumption that... which is questionable  because...   
I am not convinced that the text suggests... Let’s go back to the passage  where...in order to consider...   
By focusing on..., we overlook the deeper problem of...because...