

Seminar: Guidelines & Reflection

AP Language and Composition

Purposes:

- To generate ideas for later exploration
- To practice reflective and critical thinking
- To refine conversation skills / conferencing
- To improve listening skills
- To focus on textual evidence

Guidelines:

- Everyone should speak at least once
- No person or persons should dominate. If you have spoken three times, wait at least five minutes before talking
- Please address your peers by... (class choice) surnames or first names...
- Class will form a circle for discussion.
- Grades are determined by students and teacher
- Your grade is based on a healthy balance among
 - listening to others
 - speaking
 - questioning and clarifying points made by others
 - familiarity with the text
 - ability to draw parallels and make connections, both in discussion and in your seminar reflection
- Be aware of people who are trying to jump in, but are having a difficult time
- Ask thoughtful questions that clarify and expand ideas
- Be willing to qualify or abandon your initial opinions if you are persuaded by others that you need to do so
- When drawing parallels and making connections refer to the text
- Be comfortable with silence
- Make eye contact with your peers, not the teacher
- The teacher will act as the facilitator, not the teacher
- Remember—this is a discovery and critical thinking activity. Most comments are welcome. Evaluation of those comments are encouraged
- Linear thinkers need to be comfortable with ambiguity. Answers and direction come later.
- It's fine to return to a previous topic in the conversation. Just acknowledge that you would like to shift the discussion or to return to a point that someone made earlier.
- Seminars raise more questions than they answer. Refinement of thought comes through other activities.

Use the next page as a self-grading/evaluation guideline.

Name: _____

Work(s) Discussed: _____

Level 0

_____ Doesn't pay attention to seminar discussion	_____ Doesn't contribute to the discussion	_____ Disrupts, scoffs at other students' comments
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Level 1

_____ Contributes to the discussion	_____ Listens actively	_____ Is Considerate
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Level 2

_____ Does not digress unproductively	_____ Is neither impulsive nor overly hesitant
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Level 3: Extends and Expands discussion by...

_____ Questioning	_____ Involving others in a meaningful way	_____ Offering analogies
_____ Alluding to previously shared readings	_____ Clarifying the contribution of others	_____ Comprehending and Contributing to the Universal level
_____ Examining critically and logically the ideas of others	_____ Connecting ideas to contemporary, current events	_____ Other:

After our class seminar, you should answer the following questions on your blog. Start a new tab for your reflection. Your grade for the seminar will be a reflection of your own ideas / comments about the seminar and my assessment of your contribution.

Summary

A. What were the main points made during the discussion? Which, if any, were confusing or unclear? What new point(s) did I hear about the text/topic being discussed? Note who made these comments.

Analysis

B. How might this seminar connect to other readings/topics in this or other classes? How did this seminar reorient your view on the text/topic being discussed? What ideas for study and writing can I take from this seminar?

Self-Evaluation

C. What grade would you give yourself in the seminar? Why?