Socratic Seminar Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Rules, Guidelines, and Reflection Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Block \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Rules and Guidelines:

1. Be prepared to participate and ask good questions. The quality of the seminar is diminished

when participants speak without preparation.

2. Show respect for differing ideas, thoughts, and values--no put-downs or sarcasm.

3. Allow each speaker enough time to begin and finish his or her thoughts—don’t interrupt.

4. Involve others in the discussion, and ask others to elaborate on their thoughts.

5. Build on what others say: ask questions to probe deeper, clarify, paraphrase and add,

synthesize a variety of different views in your own summary.

6. Use your best active listening skills: nod, make eye contact, lean forward, provide feedback, and listen carefully to others.

7. Participate openly and keep your mind open to new ideas and possibilities.

8. Refer to the text often, and give evidence and examples to support your response. Example:

“The author clearly stated in Chapter 8 that...”

9. Discuss the ideas of the text, not each other’s opinions or personal experiences.

10. Take notes about important points you want to remember or new questions you want to ask.

“**In Socratic Seminars, participants share with the leader the responsibility for the quality of the seminar.** Good seminars occur when participants study the text closely in advance, listen actively, share their ideas and questions in response to the ideas and questions of others, and search for evidence in the text to support their ideas. Participants acquire good seminar behaviors through participating in seminars and reflecting on them afterward. After each seminar, the leader and participants discuss the experience and identify ways of improving the next seminar. Eventually, when participants realize that the leader is not looking for the “right” answers but instead is encouraging them to think out loud and to openly exchange ideas, they discover the excitement of exploring important issues through shared inquiry. This excitement creates willing participants, eager to examine ideas in a rigorous, thoughtful manner.”

**After the Seminar -**

Think about what you’ve learned as a result of participating in the Socratic seminar. **Write your responses on your own paper (or type them) using complete sentences.**

1. **Summarize**: Think about the content of the seminar. Summarize your thoughts by

completing one of these sentences:

* + - The major ideas I better understand about The Scarlet Letter are…
    - There are three main ideas I’m taking away from this seminar...

2. **Reflect**: Think about and reflect on the process of the seminar-- both your contribution and the group's process. In your response, please include your reactions to the following questions.

* + - How did I contribute to this discussion—what did I add to it?
    - Did I appear prepared?
    - Did I back up my ideas with examples from the book (or other materials)?
    - How many times did I speak to put forth a constructive comment?
    - Did I speak loudly and clearly enough for everyone to hear?
    - I would have spoken more if…
    - How well did I listen to others?
    - Whose behavior and/or comments stood out to me? (Explain how their comments or behavior was positive or negative.)
    - Which of the guidelines listed on the front were easy for me?
    - Which of the guidelines listed on the front did I have the most difficulty following?

3. **Set Goals**: Set goals for improvement in the next seminar. Respond to both of the following:

* + - What I plan to do differently as a participant the next time I am in a seminar is…
    - To be better prepared for the next seminar, I will…