

Socratic Circle Reflection

Instructions

After each of our Socratic circles you will be responsible for turning in a two-page, single-spaced reflection on the experience. This reflection will comprise four sections: (1) vocabulary, (2) strategies/techniques for comprehension and analysis, (3) reflection on performance, and (4) reflection on content. The information below will help you understand what content needs to be placed in each of the four sections.

It is imperative that you keep these reflections in a safe place once they have been graded and returned. At the end of the semester they will be compiled into a portfolio and used as evidence to document your growth through Socratic circles. This portfolio will affect your final grade in this class. Not having each of the reflections on our circles will result in a lower grade. **DO NOT LOSE THESE REFLECTIONS!!!**

Also, because your final Socratic circle portfolio will ask you to show growth over time, it is in your best interest to make sure that you date each and every one of your Socratic circle reflections and identify the title of the text that served as the basis of discussion.

Vocabulary

In this section you will list *at least three words* from the selection of text that you either were unfamiliar with when you first read the piece or words that you felt your understanding of changed over the course of the Socratic circle itself. For each of the identified words you will need to list three additional pieces of information: (1) the part of speech for the word as it is used in the text, (2) a dictionary definition for the word as it is used in the context of the sentence, (3) two to three sentences describing how your understanding of the word developed and/or changed through the Socratic circle process.

example:

indivisible (adj)—incapable of undergoing division

The dictionary provided me with a basic understanding of this word, but it wasn't until we started discussing the text and the history of the Pledge of Allegiance that I truly began to understand the importance of this idea. After our discussion I realize that indivisibility is one goal of our country the Pledge tries to instill.

Strategies/Techniques for Comprehension and Analysis

In the section you will list *at least three strategies or techniques* that were used by either inner circle to comprehend and analyze the selection of text. *Strive to identify new strategies that were used for the first time.* For each identified strategy/technique listed, you will need to write a 2–3-sentence description of how it was used.

example:

Use of metaphor—We discussed the scene the author described and how that was relevant to the meaning of the overall passage. Having the metaphor at the beginning of the piece helped the reader imagine the scene in his or her own mind and made understanding the author's main points much easier.

There are no right or wrong answers in this section, simply your opinions. This list of possible strategies/techniques could go on forever. However, this may be a type of thinking with which you are unfamiliar. In order to help you get started, here's a list of some other possible strategies:

Word choice

Voice

Sentence structure

Paraphrasing

Use of repetition

Use of verb tense

Use of punctuation

Summarizing

Use of capitalization

Organization/Structure

Author's attitude

(continued on next page)

Reflection on Performance

This section will be divided into two paragraphs: (1) a description of how you performed as an individual in the Socratic circle and (2) a description of how your group performed in both the role of the inner circle and the role of the outer circle. Again, there are no right or wrong answers here, only well-expressed opinions. You *might* consider the following questions for each paragraph:

Individual Performance

- How would you rate your preparation for this Socratic circle? Why?
- How would you rate your contributions (both the number of times you spoke and the quality of what you said) to the conversation of the inner circle? Why?
- How would you rate the level of teamwork you displayed in the inner circle? Why?
- How would you rate the quality of feedback you gave while you were in the outer circle? Why?
- How could you personally have improved what transpired during the Socratic circle?
- What goals do you have for your next Socratic circle performance?

Group Performance

- How would you rate your group's preparation for this Socratic circle? Why?
- How would you rate the quality of the overall conversation of your inner circle? Why?
- How would you rate the level of teamwork displayed by your inner circle? Why?
- How would you rate the quality of feedback your group gave while in the outer circle? Why?

Reflection on Content

This final section will comprise three items: (1) a thesis statement for an "imaginary" essay you might write about the meaning and importance of the ideas expressed in the selection of text, (2) a paragraph in which you describe (in general terms) the main points you might make in that "imaginary" essay, and (3) a paragraph in which you make connections between the content of this selection of text and some element of your own experience. Elements you might consider connecting this text to include: what we are currently learning in this class, learning that has occurred in other classes, personal experiences from your life outside of school, experiences of friends and family members with which you are familiar, current events, movies, literature, music, art, etc. Like the previous three sections, this last paragraph has no right or wrong answers, only opinions.

Checklist

Before turning in a reflection, use the following checklist to ensure you have included all of the necessary requirements to receive full credit:

- _____ Your name, the date of the Socratic circle, and the title of the selection of text
- _____ Three vocabulary words, their parts of speech, appropriate definitions, and explanation
- _____ Three techniques for comprehension and analysis with explanation
- _____ One paragraph reflecting on your individual performance
- _____ One paragraph reflecting on the performance of your group
- _____ A thesis statement for an "imaginary" essay on this text
- _____ One paragraph explaining the main points of that "imaginary" essay
- _____ One paragraph explaining the connections you made between the text and your own life