

FUNDAMENTAL TENETS OF SOCRATIC SEMINAR

Socratic Seminar is a tool.

Like a shovel, it is good for some things and not for others.

Socratic Seminar is designed for developing conceptual understanding through critical & creative thinking.

The design and implementation is specific and purposeful.

Socratic Seminar is cooperative and constructivist.

Students work together to *make* meaning and build skills.

Slow and steady wins the “race.”

A couple of paragraphs an hour is not unusual.

Those who do the work do the learning.

Who’s working harder, you or the students?

The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

What can be accomplished as a group far exceeds any individual.

Socratic Seminar is for seeking new understandings.

Newness creates excitement, enthusiasm and renewal.

“The Socratic method, then, is the art of teaching not philosophy but philosophizing, the art not of teaching about philosophers but of making philosophers of the students.”

~ Leonard Nelson