

Appendix IV.1.5.  
**Socratic Seminar Guidelines**

Purpose: Enlargement of understanding of a text, **not** the achievement of some particular understanding.

Guidelines:

- Listen actively.
- Build on what others say.
- Don't step on other's talk. Allow for silences and pauses.
- Let the conversation flow as much as possible, without raising hands or using a speaker's list.
- Converse directly with each other, without going through the facilitator.
- Make the assumptions underlying your comments explicit to others.
- Seek clarification and understanding of others' ideas. Ask questions.
- Watch your own air time – both in terms of how often you speak, and in terms of how much you say when you speak.
- Refer to the text, and ask others to go to the text. Use page numbers, and line numbers if provided.

\*This form was created by the *National School Reform Faculty*.