Suggested Seminar Rules and Participation Rubric

Suggested Seminar Rules

- Students must talk to one another, not just to the teacher.
- Students must listen to one another. To ensure this happens, they must either address the previous speaker or offer a reason for changing the subject.
- Students must participate at least once during the seminar. If someone called upon has nothing to say, the appropriate response is "I'm not sure what I think about that, but please come back to me."
- Hand-raising is not always necessary. Wait for natural pauses to offer comments.
- Silence is part of a seminar, too. People are thinking.
- If necessary, read aloud from the text to push the discussion forward.
- Only one student speaks at a time.
- Repeat: "I am a voice in the world; I deserve to be heard!"

Suggested Participation Rubric

**Excellent**
- Follows seminar rules.
- Provides insight on a variety of issues.
- Exhibits an understanding of the text.
- Respects the ideas of others.

**Good**
- Exhibits same behaviors as "excellent," but does not comment as frequently.

**O.K.**
- Attempts to follow seminar rules.
- Shares one or two comments.
- Respects the ideas of others.

**Poor**
- Does not speak.
- Does not follow seminar rules.

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