
SOCRATIC SEMINAR PREPARATION

Based on the podcast and essay ‘The Idea of America’, which stories in history are elevated, and which are overlooked? Why?

Step 1:

What will you be doing first? Speaking (inside circle) or listening? Highlight your role.

Step 2: (Prep Work- In Class) Answer the questions to gather your evidence.

- 1. What have you learned in past history classes / did you know before listening to the podcast about the founding of America?**

When I learned about history, I learned...

Step 3: Looking at your answers and your CER, make a claim in the box below, answering the discussion question, “Based on the podcast and essay, which stories in history are elevated and which are overlooked? Why?”:

Based on my reading of ‘The Idea of America’ by Nikole Hannah-Jones, stories about

_____ **in history are elevated, and**

_____ **are overlooked.**

In the text (the podcast or the essay, specify which one) it says, (quote).

This shows that

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Excerpt (you can use this for evidence!):

We are taught to think of Abraham Lincoln as the great emancipator, and he was. But the truth is, like many white Americans, he was opposed to slavery because it was a cruel and unjust institution in opposition to this nation’s ideals, but he was also opposed to black political and social equality. As he said in a speech that he gave in 1853, he considered black people a, quote, “troublesome presence,” and that they were incompatible with a democracy that was designed for white people. As he said in that speech, “Free them and make them politically and socially our equals? My own feelings will not admit of this, and if mine would, we well know that those of a great mass of white people will not.”

Step 4 (for a four): Share your thoughts with the group. Some comments you can make to others if you are also on the INSIDE circle:

- 1. I agree/disagree because...**
- 2. That is similar to what I wrote/think because...**
- 3. That is different from what I wrote/think because...**
- 4. What you said reminded me of...from the text where it says...**
- 5. I can relate to that because...**

Scoring:

You will be graded on your participation under Speaking and Listening and using evidence under Key ideas and Details. Remember, your ‘listening’ grade is determined by what you do when you are on the OUTSIDE CIRCLE.

	4	3	2	1
Speaking (LS)	Shares their answer to the discussion question clearly AND makes at least one	Shares their answer to the discussion question clearly.	Shares their answer to the discussion question, but is hard to hear.	Refuses to participate.

	meaningful connection or response to another student's answer.			
Listening (LS)	Is on task during the discussion, looks at the speaker when they are talking, raises hand when adding a comment.	Is on task during the discussion and is ready when it is their turn.	Is mostly on task, but needs some reminders and redirection.	Is talking during the entire discussion, in and out of the classroom, or on their computer/phone.
Key Ideas & Details (KID)	Completes all parts of the discussion question and has relevant evidence to back up their claim AND fully explains it.	Completes all parts of the discussion question and has relevant evidence to back up their claim.	Completes the discussion question, but is missing part of the answer (either the elevated story examples, overlooked story examples, or evidence)	Does not complete the discussion question (step 3).