

Renaissance Socratic Circle

Intro: One of the major themes of the Renaissance is people discussing ideas. You are going to do the same in a Socratic Circle. In this assignment you will be graded on the conversation that is taking place and how it relates to the Renaissance. The next page is the information you need to be able to have a conversation about.

What happens in a Socratic Circle?

- Class will be split in three groups
- Each group discusses for about 10-15 minutes
- EVERYONE contributes
- The other 2 groups are on the outside taking notes and DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE DISCUSSION
- We switch and have 3 separate discussions
- Reflections afterwards

Helpful Discussion Tips

- Students run the conversation
- reference the text
- use eye contact
- call people by name
- build on other people's ideas
- no negative attacks
- invite people to speak

Harder, but extra points opportunity

On the next page shows the topics you will be talking about. I want this to be a good, beneficial conversation. For a couple extra points, you have the option of talking about these issues from the point of view of a Renaissance thinker. If you choose this, you have to think totally in that person's point of view (and do number one on the next page).

People to consider (if you choose this option): Baldassare Castiglione, Isabella D'este, Michelangelo Buonarroti, Niccolo Machiavelli, Vittoria Colonna, Thomas More, William Shakespeare, Martin Luther, John Calvin, Ignatius of Loyola

PRE-SEMINAR RESEARCH & KEY QUESTIONS (ANSWER FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF YOUR THINKER)

Brainstorm and record your answers to the key questions below before the Seminar. Remember your answers should be based on specific details from your character's life and be reinforced by additional evidence from the different Renaissance activities we have done this week!

1. Research your specific thinker online on a *reputable website* (i.e. not wikipedia, answers.com, ask.com, etc.) and bullet point 5 new pieces of information that you learned beyond the text book. Concentrate on information about your point of view vs. random factoids.

*only if
you're
doing the
extra option*

2. To what extent has art, literature, education and science changed as a result of the Renaissance?
3. To what extent have values shifted as a result of the Renaissance? How different is your life from the lives of medieval peoples?
4. To what extent has the Renaissance been beneficial for all people? Which groups of people have benefited the most? Which groups benefited the least? *[For example, have women experienced a Renaissance or is the Renaissance a 'rebirth' just for men?]* Where do you fall-to what extent have you personally benefitted from the Renaissance? Explain.
5. Do you think that the Renaissance is "modern"? Explain your position using examples from your character's life and from outside documents.
6. From your perspective, was the Renaissance a break with or a continuation of the Medieval tradition? Write your response with a thesis statement.

Socratic Seminar Grading Rubric

Rubric 15 points overall

1. Number of comments 5 points
 - No comments=0 points _____
 - 1 comment= 4 points _____
 - 2 comments=5 points _____
2. Quality of points (were the points well informed) 5 points
 - no comments=0 points _____
 - just repeats others' ideas=3 points _____
 - expresses original ideas=4 points _____
 - original, deep comments, new ideas=5 points _____
3. References to text/research 5 points
 - no references=0 points _____
 - 1 reference=3 points _____
 - 2 references=4 points _____
 - 3 references= 5 points _____

Total Score _____

11

Democratic Feedback Form – Outer Circle Observations

Name: _____ Article: _____ Date: _____

1. Rate the inner circle's ability to do the following things: 1 = weak/5 = excellent

• Build on or disagree with others' ideas	1	2	3	4	5
• Cite reasons and evidence for ideas	1	2	3	4	5
• Listen to others respectfully	1	2	3	4	5
• Balance listening and speaking	1	2	3	4	5
• Stick to the subject	1	2	3	4	5
• Encourage others to join the discussion	1	2	3	4	5
• Avoid side conversations	1	2	3	4	5
• Avoid interruptions	1	2	3	4	5

2. Name specific people who did one or more of the above criteria well.

3. What was the most interesting question asked?

4. What was the most interesting idea from a participant?

5. What was the BEST thing you observed?

6. What was the most troubling thing you observed? (Avoid naming specific people)

7. How could this troubling thing be corrected?

would have added... (List 3 things you would have contributed)

~~1st round~~ 2nd round

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