

Socratic Seminar Preparation Guide

The Count of Monte Cristo

Discussion Questions:

The Count of Monte Cristo seeks revenge against the 3 enemies responsible for his unjust imprisonment.

- The Count vs. FERNAND
- The Count vs. VILLEFORT
- The Count vs. DANGLARS

1. Which of these conflicts is most vital to the development of Monte Cristo as a character? (Consider what would be missing without the conflict.) Explain.
2. Which of these conflicts is most vital to the development of any of the story's themes? (Again, consider what would be missing without it.) Explain.

Additional Questions:

3. Think about the novel as a whole. What do you consider the most significant scene in the story? (In other words, without this scene the story would be incomplete.) Why is this scene so important?
4. Does the story have a happy ending? Is the Count satisfied with his vengeance? Does he have regrets? Was his vengeance worth it? Explain.

Preparation:

To prepare for the Socratic Seminar, you will need to answer the four prompts above on a typed document.

First, type each prompt question onto your prep sheet making sure to number them accurately.

Then, write a brief answer for each. Each answer must *at minimum* include 1 quote with page number and 3 comments with your own analysis in your own words.

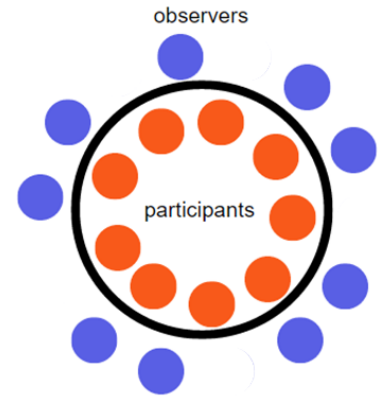
You do not have to write in complete sentences – note form is ok – but your comments do need to show thoughtful consideration of the questions.

You do not have to use MLA formatting. You may use any font, font size, bold, bullets, highlighting, etc. Design your document to be a useful reference tool during the seminar.

Procedure:

On the day of the Socratic seminar, the room will be arranged with an inner and outer circle to promote conversation. You will be assigned a partner. Do not trade names.

As the **participant**, you will sit in the inner circle. You must participate in the discussion to receive points. As the **observer**, you will sit in the outer circle, evaluating your partner's participation through the evaluation form.



The Participants:

- Must support their opinions with evidence from the text
- May speak at any time during the seminar with respect for the other participants
- May refer to other works the class has read if applicable
- May ask relevant questions of other participants about their comments/ideas

The Observers:

- Must evaluate the participant's performance during the seminar
- Must provide oral and written feedback to the participant after the seminar
- May not speak to their participants during the seminar
- May not speak to other participants or other observers during the seminar

Rules for the Socratic Seminar:

- Only one person speaking at a time. No interrupting.
- Do not monopolize the conversation. If you have made a comment, wait for a couple of other students to participate before speaking again.
- Be an active listener. Make eye contact with each speaker. Respond to fellow students by asking follow-up questions or making additional comments about what they said.
- Actively participate. At minimum you must make 3 constructive comments during the discussion (Such as introduce one point, respond to two points). You may also participate by posing an intriguing question to the group.
- Be prepared! Know your stuff! You should be able to speak to the group and make eye contact with your listeners as you speak rather than simply reading from your prep sheet.

Grading:

- Preparation: 10 points
- Observer: 10 points
- Participant: 10 points