How to Socratic

SOCRATIC SEMINAR
The Socratic method is a method of teaching developed by the Greek philosopher Socrates.

Posing questions and having discussions between individuals or groups in order to engage critical thinking and new ideas.
What is a Socratic Seminar

- An open-ended circle discussion centered around a certain idea (Renaissance & Reformation).
- Students drive the conversation by stating opinions, responding to each other and asking questions.
What’s the Difference

Discussion
- Collaborative
  - Multiple sides work towards shared understanding
- Participants listen to understand
- Possibly changes your point of view
- Creates open-minded attitude

Debate
- Oppositional
  - Trying to prove the other side wrong
- Finds flaws, gives counter argument
- Confirms own point of view
- Close minded attitude
The Big Question

- A question that covers the theme of the discussion.
- Lead to different questions to be discussed.

- How do the ideas, innovations, and creations of the Renaissance reflect and effect the change in the way people are looking at the world and their role in it?
Your Role

You are acting as a person living during the time (the Renaissance), so you should speak from their point of view.

You will spend half of the time observing/writing notes on a discussion and spend the other half participating in the discussion.
How to ask a question

- When wanting to pose a question use one of the samples below
- Why did...
- How is this (fill in detail) like this...
- What would happen if...
- What does this section (fill in detail) mean...
- I don’t get this part here...
- Do you think that...
Let's Practice

- Now in your notebooks write two questions L2 questions on either of our two documents, 95 Theses or Renaissance Thought & Theories

- Remember that you will need to direct the group to what statement(s) or document your question is about

- Example: From document A, I don’t understand where...
How to respond

- When wanting to respond to a question use one of the samples below
- This is good because...
- This is confusing because...
- My favorite part is...
- I think that...
- This is hard because...
Let's Practice

► Now with a partner from your group respond to one of the questions that they created, writing your full response in your notebook

► Then ask them one of the two questions that you wrote

► Example: From document A, I think that...
How to make connections

- When wanting to connect a question use one of the samples below
- This part reminds me of...
- This is similar to...
- The differences are...
- I also (name something in the text that has also happened to you)
- I never (name something in the text that has never happened to you)
Be Prepared

Tomorrow as a class we will practice having a Socratic discussion

To be successful we each need to be prepared

What each of you will need to do to be prepared is to have an ample amount of questions ready

In your notebooks we are to create the following:
- 6 L1 questions (three for 95 Theses, three for Renaissance T&T)
- 4 L2 questions (two for 95 Theses, two for Renaissance T&T)

Begin working on this, use your groups to check your LoQ