Weiss – Recent America  
Socratic Seminar Response Rubric / Assignment Outline

**Guiding Questions:**

* With whom do you most agree?
* With whom do you most disagree?
* Develop 1 question per opinion that you would want to ask the group based on your take away from that perspective.

**Socratic Responses**

After reading the assigned material for each week’s module, choose two “lead-in” statements to present your ideas regarding the material presented in the articles.

For this assignment, do not summarize the readings. I assume in order for you to respond, you have read and have a basic understanding of the topic. This is an opportunity to reflect on the reading, make connections, and pose questions. There is no required length, however, I imagine to fulfill the requirements it will take a page or two to complete (1/2 to 1 page for each prompt – about 250-500 words). You are not limited to the prompts below, they simply serve as a guide, but you can and should utilize them to assist in developing your responses.

Respond to the readings utilizing two of the following prompts:

* The big idea seems to be…
* I think it means….
* Another point of view is…
* I disagree that…
* I agree that…
* I have a question about…
* I’m not sure what it means when the author says…
* The ideas presented in the reading are similar to…
* Does this idea seem reasonable / justifiable? Why or why not?
* How could you look at the ideas presented in a different way?
* What obstacles might exist?
* What else might I need to know to better understand the ideas presented?

**Source Evaluation:**

We are constantly surrounded by [information](http://www.wikihow.com/Find-Information-Online), and it is not always easy to know which sources to trust. Being able to evaluate the credibility of information is an important skill used in school, work, and day-to-day life. With so much advertising, controversy, and blogging going on, how do you sift through the chaff and cut to the chase?

Directions: Answer the following questions as it relates to the authors of each opinion:

* What is the author's background? (e.g., experience, credentials, and occupation, and has he or she published anything else on the topic?). Is the other’s background uncredited, educated on topic, expert in field?
* Objectivity: Is the other biased, if so why? Is the other balanced, neutral? Why?
* Is the author’s institutional affiliation listed? If so, what is it and does that institution have neutral or any bias? Does the author cite his or her sources?

**Source Evaluation:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **POINTS POSSIBLE** | **CRITERIA** |
| 10 | Clearly have researched background of author and articulate where their perspective is influenced from. |

**Socratic Response Rubric:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **POINTS POSSIBLE** | **CRITERIA** |
| 5 | Responses to at least two prompts. Have 1 question per opinion for group. |
| 10 | Ideas are logically and clearly presented, represent critical thinking about the topic, and extend thinking beyond the obvious. |
| 0-10 | Participation in conversation.  If you do not participate there is opportunity to receive partial points based on response the overall seminar we have in class. |
| TOTAL POSSIBLE: 35 |  |