
Socratic Seminar Prep — Half-Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Seminar topic / “text” (figure, excerpt, dataset): _____

1) My Claim (one sentence)

Write a *specific* claim that you think the “text” supports.

Claim:

2) Evidence (two concrete pieces)

Point to *specific* evidence: a quoted phrase, a trend, an axis label + value, a feature in a spectrum, etc.

Evidence #1 (what I’m pointing to):

Why it supports my claim (one sentence):

Evidence #2 (what I’m pointing to):

Why it supports my claim (one sentence):

3) Assumption (what must be true for my claim to hold)

Name at least one assumption your inference relies on. (Examples: equilibrium, calibration, geometry, negligible dust, “standard candle” validity, selection effects.)

Assumption:

If this assumption fails, my claim would change like this:

4) Uncertainty (optional but strongly encouraged)

Try a confidence estimate *with a reason*.

I am about _____% confident because

5) Next Measurement (the discriminating test)

If you had one new observation/measurement you could make, what would best test your claim or distinguish between competing explanations?

Next measurement:

What outcome would strengthen my claim?

What outcome would weaken my claim?

6) One Question I want to ask the group

Ask something that pushes thinking forward (not a yes/no question).

Question:

Academic integrity reminder

If this prep is collected for credit, it is part of your course work. **Generative AI tools are not permitted for course-related assessments.** Ask if you're unsure.
