

**Opening Question:** Using both the dictionary definition and associations of the word crucible, explain why Miller chose *The Crucible* as the title of the play

### **Guidelines for Participants in a Socratic Seminar**

1. Refer to the text when needed during the discussion. A seminar is not a test of memory. You are not "learning a subject"; your goal is to understand the ideas, issues, and values reflected in the text.
2. It's OK to "pass" when asked to contribute.
3. Do not participate if you are not prepared. A seminar should not be a bull session.
4. Do not stay confused; ask for clarification.
5. Stick to the point currently under discussion; make notes about ideas you want to come back to.
6. Don't raise hands; take turns speaking.
7. Listen carefully.
8. Speak up so that all can hear you.
9. Talk to each other, not just to the leader or teacher.
10. Discuss ideas rather than each other's opinions.
11. You are responsible for the seminar, even if you don't know it or admit it.

### **Evaluation Criteria for Seminar Participation**

1. Comes prepared, with texts and notes.
2. Addresses the question using evidence from the text. Cites examples, passages, characters from the text to support answers. Comments show that the student has read the text, understood it, and is making connections between the text and ideas generated by the seminar.
3. Makes relevant comments during the seminar which show response to the previous speaker's ideas. Helps to enlarge understanding of the text and ideas generated in the seminar.
4. Takes the initiative in participating, does not have to be prompted.
5. May ask questions to clarify and deepen the discussion of ideas.
6. Shows attentiveness through body language: sitting up straight, looking at the speaker, giving the speaker the floor.
7. Does not belittle or criticize others' comments.