

# Exploding the Canon: Mini-Project

## 11th Grade ELA

Day 1 (Monday 10/17):

- Introduction to our year-long theme and mini-project**
- Beginning to research using articles from Christy's website to prepare for Friday's Socratic Seminar**
- Week-Long HW: Read at least 4 of the articles on Christy's site, annotate and use these to support your arguments in socratic seminar Friday**

Day 2 (Tuesday 10/18):

- Using our articles for a mini-lesson on citation rules with graded exit ticket**
- Week-Long HW: Read at least 4 of the articles on Christy's site, annotate and use these to support your arguments in socratic seminar Friday**

Day 3 (Friday 10/21):

- Socratic Seminar**

### Socratic Seminar Overview:

Friday, we will begin our first Socratic seminar as a way to explore our personal philosophies around High School English curriculum.

This method of discussion has some guidelines and protocol to help participants engage in meaningful conversation. Students run the conversation and everyone has to talk at least once. I will not participate in the discussion unless there is a lull or I see a good talking point can jump in to guide your conversation. We will have two discussions running at once. The floor is yours!

#### **DISCUSSION:**

- Share the airspace.
- Do not raise your hand to speak.
- Listen for periods, and then join the discussion.
- Carefully listen to others and connect or build on someone's ideas
- Respectfully disagree
- Being specific and accurate. For example, use the text "On page... it says that..."
- Resist saying "anything that comes to mind;" instead work to link clear statements, claims and evidence.
- Invite people into the conversation "Laura, what do you think?"
- Rewind, reword
- Participate in the discussion
- Use the prompts on the next page to guide your discussion:

## Essential Discussion Questions:

What books should all high school students read before graduating?  
Should all high school students even have required reading? Should we have a “canon” of literature?

*Other questions to consider...*

What do the lists of books you “should” read have in common?  
What does that say about what we value in America?  
What makes a “great work of literature” “great”?

Rubric: You will be assessed on Argue and Collaborate, this go around!

Outcome: Argue			
Outcome Target	NY	MS	ES
Formulates written or verbal arguments to support claims with clear reasons, sound logic, and relevant evidence		Student introduces and solidifies original thesis/claim with relevant and appropriate evidence from multiple sources. Analysis includes rich justification. Includes alternate/opposing positions and counterclaims.	Student solidifies a precise original thesis/claim with logically-sequenced, relevant, and appropriate evidence from multiple sources. Discusses the strengths and limitations of both claims and counterclaims in relation to the audience.

To have MS success for Argue for this socratic seminar:

- Be sure to refer to the text(s) often when making a claim
- Discuss the many layers of the argument- avoid sweeping generalizations
- Bring in personal experiences in addition to the text

Outcome: Collaborate			
Outcome Target	NY	MS	ES
Participates positively and effectively in a range of collaborative discussions, activities, and projects		Student prepares for the collaborative activity. She participates actively by using evidence, building on others ideas and using academic language. ___During discussions, she takes notes about other's ideas and perspectives to prepare her response.	Student reads the needs of the group or task and modifies behavior by leading and/or listening. Serves as facilitator of group tasks in decision making and problem solving, improvises by asking questions and making relevant connections. ___During discussions, she takes notes about other's ideas and perspectives to prepare her response. ___Clarifies and challenges ideas to propel conversation.

To be have MS success in Collaborate for this socratic seminar:

- Take notes about others ideas to prepare your response
- Build on others ideas using academic language.

