**Guidelines for a (Graded) Socratic Discussion**

**Objective**: To promote the intelligent exchange of ideas and to develop skills that make exchanging ideas beneficial.

Someone begins the discussion with a high-level question or a quotation from the material under consideration and a reaction to that quotation.

If someone wishes to respond, he/she raises a hand and waits to be called on by the discussion moderator.

If one does not raise his/her hand, no credit will be given for any comments.

People who have not yet spoken will take precedence over those who have already commented.

Be sure your comments relate to what has been stated before you to show that you do know how to listen.

If you wish to speak in opposition to the ideas of another, do so in a fashion that shows a difference of opinion and not disdain for previous comments.

Your grade will come from the frequency and quality of your participation. (This may include raising your hand after your first commentary even if you are unable to speak again.)

When about 15 minutes remain in the discussion time, the moderator will stop the discussion and allow anyone who has not spoken to make a brief statement.

Remember to keep the focus on the material being considered. New ideas should flow logically from the material with a new quotation or reference to the text at hand.

This discussion occurs among peers. The instructors will serve as moderators or recorders of student comments. Talk and respond to your peers; avoid looking at the instructors.

At first, this Socratic approach may seem stilted, but as more discussions are experienced, the more natural these will become.

Grades from these discussions may eliminate the need for a few essay exams throughout the year.

**Note:** Any student who would like to perform the duties of the moderator may volunteer to do so. Their grade would then be based on their overall control of the discussion, as well as the quality of their opening question.

http://www.collegeboard.org/ap/worldhistory/teachers\_guide/foundations\_supplement/syllabi/sample2\_app3.html