

# Tips for Introducing Socratic Seminars

- **Stress the importance the Socratic Seminar (expected outcomes)**
- **Don't rush into the discussions without establishing your expectations for each role (teacher, leader, participant)**
  - Explain the process fully
  - Clarify terms on the rubric, observation checklist and guided notes
  - Remind students to use appropriate vocabulary and academic language
- **Make sure note-takers understand what good notes look like**
  - Show them models
- **The observers' job is to provide positive feedback**
  - After you've trained the students in effective **CONSTRUCTIVE feedback**, then you can encourage a more "critical friend" form of response.
- **To ease students' nerves the first time around, make the first time a "dry run" for feedback, not a grade.**
  - Start with shorter sessions (e.g., six minutes) and questions on familiar topics (how they feel about various holidays , which movies they like the best, etc.)
  - You might also use this opportunity to prompt personal reflection, such as *"What are your plans after university?"*