

Socratic Seminar: *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*

The Topics

- 1) Who is responsible for the deaths of Romeo and Juliet?
- 2) What is the job of a good parent?
- 3) What is love?

Your Goal

To prepare a clear and cohesive argument in response to each of the three questions above.

Seminar Guidelines

- ✓ You can only participate if you have completed all preparation activities before the day of the seminar.
- ✓ You should participate a minimum of three times and use evidence from the play in each response (at least one comment for each key question).
- ✓ Students will run the discussion by respecting each other's right to speak (one at a time).
- ✓ Build on each others' comments by responding to what was just said
 - Add to previous point w/evidence
 - Add more supporting evidence
 - Disagree with the previous point w/ evidence
- ✓ Follow all rules for a Socratic Seminar

Preparation Activities

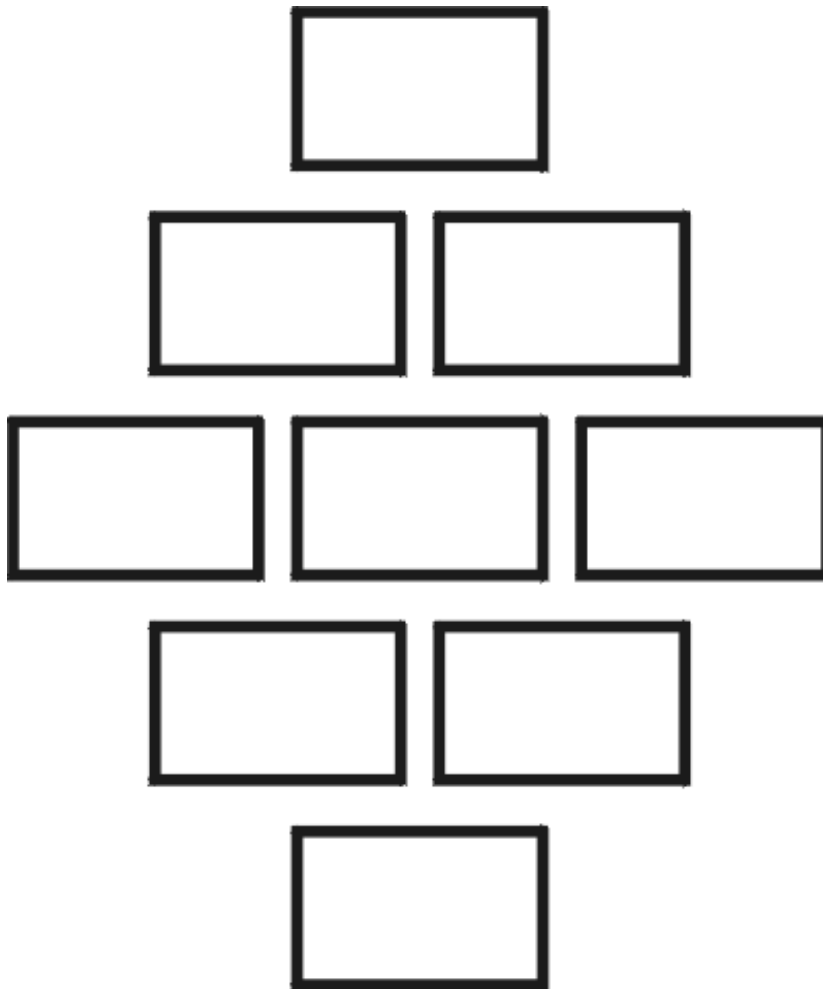
You must complete the following activities for credit and to be able to participate in the Socratic Seminar:

Preparation packet	_____ / 50 points
Participation in Socratic Seminar	_____ / 100 points
Total:	_____ / 150 points

Topic 1: Who is responsible for the deaths of Romeo and Juliet?

Part 1: Directions

1. Read through the statements (on the colored paper) made for each main character in *Romeo and Juliet*. Decide which one you agree with **most** and which one you agree with **least**. Cut out the boxes and arrange the statements in order—with the statement you most agree with at the top and the statement you least agree with at the bottom (see diagram below). Then, decide on the order of the statements which will go in between. You may **not** use all of the cards and you may end up with a different shape to the one below. Glue all boxes, in the arrangement you chose, onto a sheet of paper. Glue the statements you did not use on the bottom of the page.



2. Now, flip the paper over and sketch the boxes/diagram. In each box, write one quote that supports the statement. For the statements you did not agree with, write one quote that you feel proves the statement wrong.

Topic 1: Who is responsible for the deaths of Romeo and Juliet?

Part 2: Directions

Good intentions don't always lead to good choices. Consider why the characters made the choices they did. How are these choices responsible for the teenagers' deaths, if at all?

Romeo – Decisions Throughout the Play	Juliet – Decisions Throughout the Play
<p>1. a. Decision:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b. Quotation:</p> <p>2. a. Decision:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b. Quotation:</p> <p>3. a. Decision</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b. Quotation</p>	<p>1. a. Decision:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b. Quotation:</p> <p>2. a. Decision:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b. Quotation:</p> <p>3. a. Decision</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b. Quotation</p>
The Friar – Decisions Throughout the Play	The Nurse – Decisions Throughout the Play
<p>1. a. Decision:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b. Quotation:</p> <p>2. a. Decision:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b. Quotation:</p> <p>3. a. Decision</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b. Quotation</p>	<p>1. a. Decision:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b. Quotation:</p> <p>2. a. Decision:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b. Quotation:</p> <p>3. a. Decision</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b. Quotation</p>

Topic 3: What is love?

What is love? Are there different types of love?

Do you think Romeo and Juliet were really in love? Why or why not?

Is love a basic human need, as basic as the need for food and water?

How is love portrayed in the media? How is this similar to or different from how love is portrayed in Romeo and Juliet? How accurate is this portrayal?

How much do you think the vision of love depicted in Romeo and Juliet has influenced our society's vision of romantic love?

Does loving someone make us better people? More selfish? How does it affect us?

How do we choose who we love? Do we choose who we love?

Can love be a destructive force? Is it always a constructive force?

How are love and conflict related?

Statements on Responsibility

<p>Romeo. He acted too hastily throughout the play. He shouldn't have asked Juliet to marry him so suddenly, and he should have thought more carefully before rushing back to Verona after hearing of Juliet's death. He also acted violently and without thinking when he killed Tybalt and, later, Paris.</p>	<p>Juliet. She shouldn't have deceived and disobeyed her parents. Like Romeo, she was too hasty in rushing into marriage. She was already engaged to marry Paris at the time of the ball, and until then, had been very happy with her parents' choice.</p>
<p>Friar Lawrence. He should never have agreed to marry Romeo and Juliet in secret. He gave Juliet the sleeping drug, and he was responsible for getting news of the plan to Romeo - the news never reached him, so Romeo thought Juliet was dead.</p>	<p>Lord and Lady Capulet. They were partly responsible for keeping the feud going. They had authority over their household, and could have stopped the quarrelling if they wanted to. They should have paid more attention to Juliet's wishes and listened to her opinions. They were too hard on her when she refused to marry Paris.</p>
<p>Lord and Lady Montague. Like the Capulets, they were also responsible for keeping the feud going. If they had been more understanding, Romeo would not have felt he had to keep secrets from them.</p>	<p>Fate. The tragedy was not the fault of any one individual - it happened because of bad luck. It was fate that Romeo and Juliet met and fell in love, and bad luck that the letter which could have saved them didn't reach Romeo in time.</p>
<p>Tybalt. He started the fight that resulted in Romeo being banished, and he was always causing trouble. He, more than anyone else, kept the hatred alive between the two families.</p>	<p>The Nurse. She encouraged Juliet in her romantic ideas. She carried messages, and helped the lovers to meet and get married secretly. She should have let Juliet's parents know what was going on. She advised Juliet to marry Paris, knowing she was already married to Romeo.</p>
<p>The Prince. He should have acted earlier to stop the feud between the two families. It was unjust of him to send Romeo away from Verona as a punishment for killing Tybalt when the fight was Tybalt's fault.</p>	<p>Mercutio. His attitude to quarrels and fighting made the situation worse. He saw the feud as a game and that led to his death and Romeo's banishment.</p>