Socratic Seminars

Tips for a successful socratic seminar:

1. Come prepared. Mark up the text and write out at least two questions or observations.
2. Use a dictionary before the seminar. Do not waste time asking about vocabulary.
3. Respond to the previous speaker. This is the only way to have a real conversation.
4. Refer specifically to the text.
5. Provide evidence to support your opinions.
6. Try to understand a different point of view.
7. Don’t be afraid to refocus the group.
8. Speak loudly and clearly.
9. Listen carefully.
10. Make eye contact when speaking and listening.
11. Do not monopolize the conversation!

There are many ways to participate:

1. Support or challenge an idea. Explain why.
2. Help a speaker provide evidence or a page reference.
3. Ask a question.
4. Paraphrase an idea to clarify or check understanding.
5. Make a connection to another work of literature or art, an historical event, a song, etc.
6. Give another example to illustrate a point.
7. Invite a quiet person to join in.
8. Praise a good idea.