

THE HOT SEAT
Socratic Seminars
AP American Studies
Strahn/Tranel

“Lord Almighty, I feel my temperature rising . . .”
-Elvis Presley

- *Students will be assigned hot seat readings and related questions in advance of the seminar. They will be expected to complete the readings and detailed question responses before the seminar.
- *On the day of the Hot Seat, 3-5 students will be selected randomly to “lead” the seminar.
- *Student leaders will analyze and critically-evaluate the assigned readings, while also offering well-supported opinions regarding related topics—mere summary of the readings should be avoided.
- *Hot Seat leaders may choose to address the assigned questions or pursue different lines of inquiry regarding the readings and related topics.
- *They may be asked questions by Mr. Strahn or their fellow students or vice versa.
- *Once they have voiced their own perspectives, Hot Seat leaders should manage a respectful, thought-provoking discussion with their fellow students, making certain that as many voices as possible are heard during the activity.
- *All students participating in the Hot Seat should listen and speak respectfully—**PLEASE BE POLITE**
- *No student leader or Hot Seat participant should monopolize the discussion or interrupt their peers
- *Mr. Strahn will grade Hot Seat participants on a 50-point scale, based on the rubric below.
- *Everyone will lead a Hot Seat at some point during the semester. Once you have accomplished this task, you will not be required to do so again, until everyone has participated.
- *Students not prepared to lead a Hot Seat can “phone a friend” and opt out of their obligation for that day, but their eventual grade for leading the Hot Seat will be lowered by 10 pts.

HOT SEAT LEADER RUBRIC

Hot Seat leader was obviously prepared. They carefully analyzed and evaluated the assigned readings, and offered thought-provoking opinions that enriched the seminar:	25	20	15	10	5	0
Hot Seat leader demonstrated respect for his/her peers and did not monopolize or interrupt during the seminar:	15	12	9	6	3	0
Hot Seat Leader spoke clearly and loudly enough; delivered info in a logical, interesting, and professional manner; Student often made eye contact:	5	4	3	2	1	0
Hot Seat leader included relevant and historically accurate outside information in the discussion:	5	4	3	2	1	0