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## Socratic Seminar: The Power of the Question

### Part 1: The Golden Rule of Socratic Questions

In our Socratic Seminar, we are looking for **open-ended questions**. An open-ended question is a doorway. It cannot be answered with a simple *Yes* or *No*, and it cannot be instantly answered by searching on Google. It forces people to share their experiences, opinions, and ideas.

**Example:** *Closed (Dead End):* What time does school start?

*Open (Doorway):* Why do we learn better at certain times of the day?

#### **Sentence Stems to Start Your Thinking:**

If you get stuck, try starting your questions with these phrases:

- Why do we always...
- Does the way we [action] help or hurt our ability to...
- Why is it that...
- Does [idea/rule] make us more or less likely to...

### Part 2: Drafting Your Inquiries

## Topic: Creativity in Schools

Write one open-ended question for each of the four categories below. Think about your actual, everyday life in the classroom!

#### **1. Grades & Fear (Think about: taking risks, making mistakes, rubrics)**

My Question:

#### **2. Time & Schedules (Think about: the bells, class length, time of day)**

My Question:

### 3. Rules & The "Right" Answer (Think about: behavior, following directions, right vs. wrong)

My Question:

### 4. Technology & Tools (Think about: Chromebooks, AI, notebooks, pencils)

My Question:

### ★ BONUS: Outside the Box (Have a question about creativity that doesn't fit above? Write it here!)

My Question:

## Part 3: Peer Review

Partner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Trade papers with your partner. Read their questions and talk about them. As the reviewer, it is your job to check these two boxes for your partner:

- The Google Test: I checked my partner's questions. None of them can be answered with a quick Google search.
- The Debate Test: I checked my partner's questions. They ask for ideas and experiences, not just to pick Side A or Side B.

**Partner Feedback:** Which of your partner's questions is their strongest?

I think your best question is number \_\_\_\_\_ because...

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## Part 4: Submit Final Question

Trade paper back to your partner when you are finished providing them feedback. Look at the feedback your partner gave you for your **Creativity in Schools questions**. Pick your absolute **best question** from the page (choose ONLY one). Rewrite it in Google Classroom to make it as clear and powerful as possible.