

1. Settling in.

To prepare for the seminar discussion, review the day's reading by looking back through the document, noting its sections and the development of its argument. Bring to mind your experience of reading: what did you notice, what did you find odd or confusing, what seemed problematic, what struck you as especially smart, engaging, risky, powerful? Scan your annotations. Jot down any new thoughts that come to mind.

2. The day's question.

I will offer a question about that text for the seminar to grapple with. That question will have no single and no correct answer. Instead, it will be question that contains within it a variety of smaller questions, avenues of exploration, and clusters of related issues. The question can be responded to in various ways depending on the respondent's interests, orientation toward the text, and interpretive strategies.

3. Launching the conversation.

I will randomly choose two seminarians to launch the conversation. Each will be given a few minutes to address these matters:

- What interested me/mattered to me about the discourse was_____.
- I was challenged/confused by the way the writer_____.
- We might begin to approach the day's question in this way_____.

4. Responding to the launch.

I will randomly choose two seminarians to respond to the launchers. Each will be given a few minutes to address these matters:

- I wish to add to a point made by X in this way:_____.
- I wish to offer an alternative point:_____.
- I see the primary issue associated with the day's question as_____.

5. Locating evidence.

Each of two randomly-chosen seminarians will direct our attention to a passage from the day's reading that could be used to support a point already made in the conversation, or to support a point of their own. Each will read the passage and identify its significance to the day's question.

6. Taking account.

Every member of the class quickly describes some aspect of the day's question or the responses to it so far that they would like us to explore more thoroughly or would urge us to attend to differently. This is also a time to say what's not yet been said but deserves to be put on the table, perhaps taken up at a future meeting.