**Tips for Successful Socratic Circles, English 2E**

Prepare

* READ READ READ READ RE-READ RE-READ
* Prepare to participate. Answer prompt questions in writing and develop questions of your own.
* Probe deeply into the text. Respond to questions with textual support—SHOW us where in the story we should look.
* Extend beyond the text. Discussions should examine multiple perspectives and multiple right answers.
* The quality of the discussion is diminished when participants are not prepared.

Participate

* In the inner circle,
	+ Listen to the speaker and allow them time to complete a thought.
	+ Build on what was said.
		- Ask questions for elaboration, clarification, and examples.
		- Synthesize what has been said and add to it.
		- Respectfully disagree
	+ Circle back to ideas for further discussion.
	+ Offer and respect differing ideas, thoughts and values.
	+ Invite multiple perspective (“\_\_\_\_\_, what do you think?”)
	+ Paraphrase what someone said and add to it.
* In the outer circle,
	+ Actively listen.
	+ Take notes.
	+ Don’t talk.
	+ If you have a role (timer, mapper, co-pilot, etc.), take it seriously.

Reflect – **In your Reading Notebook** write about the three areas listed below

1. **Summarize** the content of the discussion. What were the most important points made about the text?
2. **Reflect** on your own participation and on the group’s process. Examples of questions to respond to:
	* How did you contribute to the discussion? What did you add to it?
	* What new questions do you have about the text?
	* Who helped move the dialogue forward?
	* Were there lapses and how did the group handle them?
3. **Set goals** for the next discussion. Examples of questions to respond to:
	* What will you do differently next time?
	* How can you be a more active listener?
	* How can you prepare better?