Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

English 11

**Fishbowl Discussion Assignment**

For this unit you will be required to actively participate in fishbowl discussions. A fishbowl discussion occurs when certain students take positions in an inner-circle and the rest of the class will be positioned in an outer circle. All students in the inner-circle are required to participate in a mature discussion of the text. The students outside of the circle are required to reflect on what is being said and may add information or debate ideas after the inner-discussion is finished. This forma t is based on the Socratic Seminar approach.

**Fishbowl discussions are beneficial in many ways. Participation in this discussion will help students:**

* Demonstrate specific knowledge
* Provide logical arguments
* Evaluate and respond to arguments provided by others
* Reflect on new insights provided by others
* Develop higher awareness of concepts
* Develop increased understanding of various viewpoints
* Improve oral expression of textual interpretation

**Directions:** While reading, *of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck, you will participate in fishbowl discussions. After about every two or so chapters our class will have a discussion. Each student will be assigned a date/chapters at the start of the unit for which they will be assigned to the “inner-circle” and will be graded. Students participating in the “inner-circle” will use their reading log to help guide their discussion. Students in the “outer-circle” will listen attentively and be called on at various times to add information.

**Fishbowl – Inner- Circle Procedures:**

* **Fill out reading log and have it with you the day you are assigned to the inner circle**
* **Participate in at least 4 out of the 8 discussion topics**
* **Respond to at least 2 of your peers in the circle (you can add to their point, debate their point, ask them a question, correct them, compliment their point etc.)**
* **Must remain invested in group discussion with appropriate listening skills: proper eye contact, posture, and respect ( No underhanded comments, no comments or inappropriate glances to outside circle peers)**

**Fishbowl Discussion Guidelines:**

* **Discussion should be 8 minutes (teacher will stop you when you meet required time).**
* **All group members must be courteous.**
* **One member starts with summary; others may add info or comment on info once initial summary is given.**
* **Once initial summary is given and commented on it is up to group to create the flow of the fishbowl discussion. The group does not have to follow order of topics as listed on worksheet. It is, however, the group’s responsibility to be sure that all topics on worksheet are covered and all important information from chapter is brought up.**
* **Members of the outer circle are to be appropriately listening and must be ready to comment or answer questions. Anyone outside the circle who is behaving inappropriately (cell phone use, distractions, etc.)- will lose points (see rubric).**
* **Please Note:** if you are absent the day you are scheduled to participate in your fishbowl you must hand in your reading log when you return and you will need to participate in a future fishbowl.

**Topics for Discussion**

* Chapter Summary
* Setting
* Characters- who did what to whom and why? Your thoughts, opinions etc.
* Conflicts
* Irony
* Symbolism
* Personal feelings about events, characters, plot etc.
* Predictions

**Inner-Circle Discussion Rubric \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/31 Points**

**Time \_\_\_\_\_\_/4**

* Group maintained a coherent, appropriate discussion for at least 8 minutes

4=8 minutes

3=7 minutes

2= 5-6 minutes

1= Less than 5 minutes

**Content \_\_\_\_\_/16**

* All/Most important information from chapter was discussed

2 points per item

***Participation/* Topics \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/4**

* You personally contributed to at least 4 different topics from worksheet

***Participation*/ Responses \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/2**

* You responded to peers on at least two different occasions

Reading Log \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/5

**\*\*\*\*Topics/Responses will not be counted together (You need to speak at least 4 times).**

* You will not receive points for listening and attentiveness- but you may be deducted points. If you are rude, distracting others, inappropriate, using an electronic device etc. - your score will be cut in half. - This also applies to the outer circle and reflection sheet score.