Summerville Union High School

17555 Tuolumne Road, Tuolumne, CA 95379

Ms. Diehl

“*Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation*

*determines what you do.*

*Attitude determines how well you do it.*”

*-Lou Holtz*

**Socratic Seminar: In order to prepare for your Socratic Seminar, which will take place THIS CLASS PERIOD, please compose 5 questions for the seminar. You must have at least one of each of the categories listed below. Please complete this on a Google Doc, and share it with me when you finish. You will have your ipad out with you during the seminar.**

**The Question:** A Socratic Seminar opens with a question either posed by the leader or solicited from participants as they acquire more experience in seminars. An opening question has no right answer; instead it reflects a genuine curiosity on the part of the questioner. A good opening question leads participants back to the text/film as they speculate, evaluate, define, and clarify the issues involved. Response to the opening question generates new questions from the leader and the participants, leading to new responses. In this way, the line of inquiry in a Socratic Seminar evolves on the spot rather than being predetermined by the leader.

**OPEN-ENDED QUESTION:**

Write an insightful question about the text/film that will require proof, insights, and group

discussion to discover or explore the answer to the question.

1. Who was the intended audience of this film? How do you know this?
   1. The intended audience of this film would be the general public, with an emphasis on those who attend the marine-life theme parks, particularly, SeaWorld.
2. A hasty generalization refers to a claim that is stated based off of insufficient evidence, would you say the documentary was making a hasty generalization by inferring that because Tillikum was aggressive towards trainers, that all killer whales are aggressive by nature?

**WORLD CONNECTION QUESTION**:

Write a question connecting the text/film to the real world.

1. Was this documentary a form of propaganda?
2. Are we as a society doing enough to protect and support the rights of these animals?
3. Do these animals have rights?

**UNIVERSAL THEME/ CORE QUESTION:**

Write a question dealing with a theme(s) of the text/film that will encourage group discussion about the universality of the text/film.

1. How has the concept of the animal cruelty changed over time?

**RHETORICAL ANALYSIS QUESTION:**

Write a question dealing with the style of the argument. Your question may focus on how the arguer’s point of view, diction, or images, interviews, background music, etc.

1. How did Cowperthwaite reel in her audience at the beginning the documentary?
   1. She reeled in her audience through started her film with a scene of orca whales swimming in their natural habitat, showing that they are peaceful animals living in the wild. In doing so, she is appeal emotionally to her audience---yet before long, the screen goes black and we hear a frantic 911 call.
2. How did the director/writer build her ethos?
   1. Extrinsically, meaning outside of the documentary itself, she built her ethos by directing many documentaries before (12 to be exact), she interviewed previous Sea World trainers to “testify” on her behalf and expose the horrific living conditions of the whales. She also interviewed OSHA experts on the case, and was able to show how SeaWorld was in violation of many OSHA laws. Lastly, the documentary was funded and sponsored by CNN, a well-founded news cooperation. In the film, she was able to establish her credibility by not attacking SeaWorld from the get-go, instead, she goes back in history by showing real video footage and news reports of how the mistreatment of whales lead to deaths even before SeaWorld. The clips also give credibility to the documentary because it shows legitimacy of the stories being told.