

## AVID Curriculum Cues from Kathy Josephson



Strategies for Success      "Philosophical Chairs and Socratic Seminar"      pages 147-172

**Purpose:** *Collaborative strategies that provide a format for an inquiry based classroom discussion and can be used yearly with a variety of topics*

Essential 6, Indicator 4, Level 1 states that Philosophical Chair and/or Socratic Seminar must be used in the AVID elective class and level 2 states that the students routinely participate in both. Consequently, if you have not utilized either strategy this year, now is the time to try. Both of the above units provide the elective teacher with a plethora of materials to use while planning the lesson. If the students have experience with Socratic seminar and philosophical chairs, the strategies should then be embedded within a unit and not used in isolation. For instance, a philosophical chairs proves to be a great pre-writing activity as it allows students to gain and develop a variety of ideas about a topic. A Socratic seminar does the same except the discussion is not necessarily based on a central topic or controversial idea, but an idea, issue, and/or value that the students may have studied or researched over time. What the curriculum does not provide for Socratic seminar is a list of readings which provide evidence for various ideas, issues, and/or values.

Write Path. Math      "When It Looks Like Magic: Leaning to Read between the Lines"      pages 105-155

**Purpose:** *Asking students to write out each step they have taken to solve an equation or complete a proof for the purpose of helping them understand a problem and use example problems in future texts*

The strategy also provides an excellent opportunity for the teacher to evaluate student understanding through their writing. The teacher teaches a particular process and then uses a provided problem or one of their own to help the students identify line by line the changes that have occurred for start to finish and justify each step. This strategy can also be used in the elective class during