

Name/Group:

Date:

Period:

## Small Group Seminar: Public Safety

**Seminar Purpose:** The Small Group Seminar is a highly structured student led discussion of a reading. The purpose of the seminar is twofold; first, to get students engaged with a reading document. Second, to get students to reflect on events and make critical judgments (i.e., to engage in critical thinking in history).

**Seminar Rules:**

1. Students must reference the text before speaking.
2. No reference should be repeated.
3. Participants will take turns (you MAY NOT talk until it is your turn).
4. Participants will value the opinions of the other participants.
5. Participants will treat one another with respect.

**Seminar Organization:**

**Question 1:** What, in your opinion are some of the key duties of a police officer? What do you think police officers need in order to accomplish these duties? (everyone must answer this question – each response should be under 30 seconds): the order is to the left of the leader.

**Question 2:** How does the Austin Police Department compare with other cities nationwide? What are some of the key statistics that were used in the articles to compare Austin to other cities? (anyone may answer this question – you should reference the text before speaking): the leader will recognize those who wish to answer this question.

**Question 3:** What are some of the key reasons that former chief of police Art Acevedo advocated for additional police on the task force? What benefits does he argue additional police force would have on the community? (anyone may answer this question – you should reference the text before speaking): the leader will recognize those who wish to answer this question.

**Question 4:** On what basis do critics like Spelman argue against APD's request for additional police officers? (anyone may answer this question – you should reference the text before speaking): the leader will recognize those who wish to answer this question.

**Question 5:** How have immigrants benefitted America? How are his descriptions of immigrants different from those of the authors of the opposing viewpoint? (anyone may answer this question – you should reference the text before speaking): the leader will recognize those who wish to answer this question.

**Question 6:** Do you think that additional officers on the police force will make Austin a safer city? Is investing in uncommitted time and devoting more city funds to APD worthwhile? Your opinion- explain your reasoning. (everyone must answer this question): the order is to the right of the leader.