**Science/Religion Summative or Formative Assessment: Socratic Circle**

Over the past several decades, the fields of science and religion have produced a rich dialogue concerning the different purposes, methods and ways of pursuing knowledge in these two areas as well as in their modes of interaction. Scholars have also addressed a range of more specific topics such as divine action, the meanings of evolution, an orderly natural world, and varied elements of human nature.

To prepare for the Socratic Circle, you will read /view 4 of the articles or videos provided under Resources at the bottom of this page. You will complete a Socratic Circle entry ticket based on your thinking about the articles or videos, in which you apply the knowledge and thinking we’ve been doing in class to the article or video. Some of the questions you might consider are:

1. How are religious and scientific processes for seeking explanations similar? How are they different?
2. Why should scientists care about religion, if at all? Identify 3 scientists who were religious and their scientific contribution (talk a little about the life of each scientist).
3. How can evolutionary perspectives on religion inform the science and religion dialogue? Explain the relation between Genesis creation stories (1-2) and the Big Bang Theory (Hint: discuss literal vs. metaphorical representation).
4. Has science made belief in God obsolete? Are there any good science-based arguments for God?
5. In what ways does God reveal Godself through natural phenomena: humans, animals, the planets, the universe, cell structure and processes, etc.? What do we discover about God through scientific, natural observation?
6. What are the most important open questions, issues, or challenges confronting the relationship between science and religion, and what are the prospects for progress?

**Article and Video Resources:**

* **A Vatican Scientist** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=9&v=u8wLH4z7tn4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L234FRxovqc>

* **Interview - “Faith and Science: 15 Questions for Dr. Stephen Barr”**

<https://www.americamagazine.org/content/all-things/faith-and-science-15-questions-dr-stephen-barr>

* **U.S. News Article: Pope Francis Says Science and Faith Aren't at Odds**

<https://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2014/10/28/pope-francis-comments-on-evolution-and-the-catholic-church>

* **Pew Research Study: Scientists and Belief**

<https://www.pewforum.org/2009/11/05/scientists-and-belief/>

* **Article: Religion isn’t the enemy of science: it’s been inspiring scientists for centuries**

<http://theconversation.com/religion-isnt-the-enemy-of-science-its-been-inspiring-scientists-for-centuries-90190>

**Socratic Circle Rubric**

**Student Evaluator: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Student(s) Being Observed (no more than two):**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**5 = Outstanding 4 = Good 3 = Average 2 = Below average 1 = Not acceptable**

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| **Circle Preparation, Engagement** | Critical watching | Thinking shows depth and reflection | Successfully takes initiative; encourages others to participate |
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| **Supports ideas with specifics from text/media** | Consistent references to text or media | Defends ideas when challenged with references | Provides context from text or media |
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| **Insightful questions** | Help to construct meaningful responses | Probing questions, not close-ended | Higher order: evaluation, application, synthesis |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Builds on alternative viewpoints** | Uses various POV to discover new meaning | Spirit of dialogue with those in disagreement | Wide vision/not tunnel vision |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Listens to others, civil and respectful** | validates others’ comments in discussion and rebuttal | body language /actions = listening |  |
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**Socratic Circle Rubric Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**5 = Outstanding 4 = Good 3 = Average 2 = Below average 1 = Not acceptable**

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| **Student Name** | **Circle Preparation, Engagement**  -critical watching  -thinking has depth and reflection  -successfully takes initiative  -invites/encourages others to participate | **Supports ideas, references to text or media**  **-**consistently makes references to text or media to support ideas  -defends ideas when challenged | **Insightful questions**  **-**questions help to construct meaningful responses  -probing, requiring evaluation, application, or synthesis | **Accepts and builds on alternative viewpoints**  **-**uses various points of view to discover new meaning  -wide vision/not tunnel vision | **Listens to others, civil and respectful**  **-**validates others’ comments in discussion and rebuttal  -body language /actions = listening |
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**Notes on Circle Performance:**

**Socratic Circle Entry Ticket –**

**One for each video or article; may repeat essential questions**

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| **List below 3 essential questions that are overriding concerns:** | |
| **Quotation (at least 3)** | **Your Response** |
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| **Questions to ask the Circle participants: (Level 2 and Level 3 questions only)** | |
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