**The Fishbowl Discussion**

We’ve had discussion where you pull teeth. We’ve had discussions where you’ve regulated yourselves. We’ve had discussions where I asked the questions, and most of you stared at me blankly while I stumbled my way to get you to say an answer. Today, we will be doing a brand new kind of discussion—THE FISHBOWL DISCUSSION

In this kind of discussion, you will be fulfilling your normal responsibilities that any regular discussion would have. However, instead of it being the entirety of the classroom, opportunity will be afforded to each pod individually to ensure that you have enough time to speak. You will be responding to the questions that you and your classmates created.

The kind of discussion is called a fishbowl, and it works as if each pod is in a fishbowl or on display. Each pod will receive five marbles. These are your talking tokens. I will be choosing 35-40 questions, with 7-8 questions being pulled from each category. I will display a question, and ask which pod wants to answer that particular question. If there is only one, they will sacrifice one of their talking tokens, and two minutes to discuss it as a group while the rest of the class listens and responds electronically, using Socrative to put up comments based on the other group’s current discussion. Once time is up, another question will appear, and the process begins again.

If more than one group wants to speak on a topic, however, it will be randomized and selected by the wheel. Only one group is allowed to speak on any given topic, so it’s important that you both get your talking points in AND choose topics carefully. By the end of the discussion, each group should have spoken five times for two minutes each, for a grand total of ten minutes of discussion from each group.This is an opportunity for you to get speaking/listening points. If you are someone who has trouble in larger groups, this is tailor-made for you—take advantage! You will be graded on both your participation and talking points when it’s your pod’s turn, as well as the comments you send in through Socrative to be a value added to the conversation.