



## *Humanitas* Teacher Training with Nate Antiel

### Lecture 9: Discussing Texts with Individual Students

#### **Outline:**

Both group seminars and one-on-one Socratic conversations hold unique value in education. Group settings allow diverse mistakes and peer learning, while one-on-one interactions provide opportunities for intense, focused exploration that mirrors the historical Socratic tradition. Anchoring discussions to texts ensures depth and fidelity in both formats.

#### **Socratic Seminar in Group Settings**

- **Diverse Mistakes as Learning Opportunities**
  - Students make varied errors, which fosters collective correction and learning.
  - Peer correction encourages critical thinking and deeper engagement.
- **Focus on Textual Anchoring**
  - Constant return to the text ensures fidelity to the original material.
  - Questions like “Is that what Plato says?” promote textual analysis and accuracy.

#### **One-on-One Socratic Conversations**

- **Enhanced Depth of Exploration**
  - Engaging with one student allows for in-depth exploration of ideas.
  - Conversations become a focused “dance” or dialectic centered on the text.
- **Historical Precedent**
  - Socratic dialogues typically involved only two or three participants.



- One-on-one discussions mirror the intensity and focus of these classic dialogues.
- **Unique Value Compared to Group Seminars**
  - One-on-one discussions allow deeper personal intellectual growth.
  - They can surpass the benefits of group seminars by tailoring the discussion to the individual.

