

## Harkness Ground Rules

AP Language is a college-level course. As such, all students are expected to contribute to the academic, intellectual, and philosophical energy of the room.

On Monday, November 24, we will conduct our first Harkness seminar. A Harkness seminar looks like a Socratic seminar, but there are several major differences.

1. Harkness seminars—or circles—are run completely by the students. The teacher is an observer only.
2. Students are responsible for all topics, arguments, counterarguments, evidence and so on.
3. Students are also responsible for the silence. If the circle drops to silence, it's the students' responsibility to re-energize the discussion.

For Monday's Harkness seminar, please read the posted articles on whether or not the United States and other western countries should pay ransom to terrorists who kidnap our citizens. Be prepared to argue your point with evidence from these texts and any other sources that you have. Be prepared also to play Devil's Advocate. Remember, Devil's Advocate is about argument and by engaging in a counterargument you add dimension not only to the arguments of others, but also to your own arguments.

# Argue well!