

# The Count of Monte Cristo on Trial

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

There is no doubt that the Count of Monte Cristo feels that he is justified in seeking revenge for his unjust imprisonment. Likewise, the reader is aware that he has redeeming or pardonable qualities. For this Socratic Seminar, you will imagine that you are an attorney. We will put the Count on trial for four potential crimes:

- The Count of Monte Cristo vs. CADEROUSSE
- The Count of Monte Cristo vs. FERNAND
- The Count of Monte Cristo vs. VILLEFORT
- The Count of Monte Cristo vs. DANGLARS

Half of you will be assigned the role of **Prosecuting Attorney**. Your job is to argue:



The Count is **GUILTY**: He knowingly and deliberately goes too far in his thirst for revenge, and, therefore, he is actually guiltier than his enemy.

The other half of you will be assigned the role of **Defense Attorney**. Your job is to argue:



The Count is **INNOCENT**: He is an innocent victim of cruel men and is well within the limits of the law in seeking his revenge.

**Please make notes about evidence/reasoning/arguments as you reflect on the completed novel.** Evidence must include direct quotes from the novel, including page numbers, that address the reasoning/arguments of your case either for or against the Count. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, **students must also answer questions on p. 3 of this document and have textual support for all answers.**

<p>The Count vs. Caderousse</p>	
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The Count

vs.

Fernand

The Count

vs.

Villefort

The Count

vs.

Danglars

### Additional Discussion Questions/Reflection Questions:

1. Which of these conflicts is most vital to the development of Monte Cristo as a character? (Consider what would be missing without it.) Explain.
2. Which of these conflicts is most vital to the development of the story's theme? (Again, consider what would be missing without it.) Explain.
3. Think about the novel as a whole. What do you consider the most significant scene in the story? (In other words, without this scene the story would be incomplete.)
4. Does the story have a happy ending? Is the CMC satisfied with his vengeance? Does he have regrets? Was his vengeance worth it? Explain.

### Procedure:

On the day of the Socratic seminar, the room will be arranged with an inner and outer circle to promote conversation. You will be assigned a partner. Do not trade names.

As the **participant**, you will sit in the inner circle and confirm or refute the evidence. Each student must participate in the discussion to receive participation points. The **observer** will sit in the outer circle, evaluating your partner's participation through the evaluation form.



### The Participants:

- Must support their opinions with evidence from the text
- May speak at any time during the seminar with respect for the other participants
- May refer to other works the class has read if applicable
- May ask relevant questions of other participants

### The Coaches:

- Must evaluate the participant's performance during the seminar
- Must provide oral and written feedback to the participant after the seminar
- May not speak to their participants during the seminar
- May not speak to other participants or coaches during the seminar

### Rules for the Socratic Seminar:

1. Only one person speaking at a time. No interrupting.
2. Do not monopolize the conversation. If you have made a comment, wait for a couple students to speak before speaking again.
3. Be an active listener. Respond to fellow students by asking follow-up questions or making comments about what you heard.
4. Actively participate. At minimum you must make 4 constructive comments during the discussion (Introduce two points, respond to two points). You may also participate by posing an intriguing question to the group.
5. The Socratic Seminar will have a value of 30 points based on participation.