

## **Indian Removal Socratic Seminar: Questioning Script**

**Persistent Issue:** What actions are justified in the interest of the welfare or security of the community?

**Focus Question:** Was Indian Removal the best possible solution to the conflicting interests between Indian and American cultures in the 1830s?

### **Jackson document:**

- 1. What motivated Jackson's desire for Indian removal?**
- 2. How does Jackson understand the Central government's role in relations between the Indians and the states?**
- 3. Why does Jackson consider his removal proposal a "fair exchange"?**

### **Chickasaw Document:**

- 4. How would you characterize the Chickasaw attitude towards Jackson?**
- 5. How would the Chickasaw respond to the arguments that Jackson makes for removal?**

### **Synthesis:**

- 6. Did the government offer a "Fair exchange" that attempted to achieve the best possible solution for all parties?**
  - i) Were there realistic long-term alternatives to Indian removal?
  - ii) What would have been the likely consequences if Indians had not been removed?
  - iii) Was removal in the long-term interests of the tribes?
  - iv) Could they have expected fair or equitable treatment from the states?
  - v) Was this the only way the federal government might offer protection?