Name_____ Date_____ Class Sec._____

Homework – Socratic Circle Preparation; The Problem of Universals

Instructions: Please answer each question to the best of your ability. These questions are a matter of opinion but will be graded on the quality of how well you explain that opinion.

1. According to you, do things like “beauty” or “fairness” exist in the physical world—do they exist *inside* particular people or objects? Or do they only exist because people think about them (like a kind person, a fair decision, or a beautiful flower)? Why do you think that? Explain.

2. When scientists find patterns—like how things always fall down or how plants grow toward sunlight—are they *discovering* rules that were already part of nature, or *making up* ideas to describe how nature works? Why do you think that? Explain.

3. When a person says that things are the “same kind of thing” (like two tables or two colors), what makes that true? Is it because those things share something real in common, is it because we group them that way in our minds, or is it because our words make it easier to talk about them that way? Why? Explain

4. Imagine that every person in the world suddenly forgot the word “circle.” Would circles still exist? Why do you think that? Explain your reasoning.