

**The Outsiders**

**Anticipation/Reaction Guide**

**Directions:** Before reading the novel, read and think about the statements below. In the "Before Reading" column, write "yes" if you agree with the statement, "no" if you disagree with the statement, and "?" if you don't have a strong opinion about the statement. After reading the novel, you will complete the last column, revisiting your responses.

**Yes = I agree**

**No = I disagree**

**? = I don't know**

<b>Before Reading</b>	<b>Statement</b>	<b>After Reading</b>
	1) Most kids who join gangs do it because they are bad kids and want other kids like them to get into trouble with.	
	2) Most people stand up for what they think is right, whether or not others agree with them.	
	3) Physical violence is never appropriate to solve a problem.	
	4) It is more important to be a part of the "group" than to be an individual.	
	5) Teasing, humiliation, and harassment are a part of teenage life and should be accepted as just a part of growing up.	
	6) Peer pressure is a huge influence on the thoughts and actions of a teenager.	
	7) Once people do something really bad, they are labeled as "bad" and won't ever do anything good.	
	8) Many kids feel left out of social groups in school.	
	9) Teenagers are too young and inexperienced to write a book.	

After completing the "Before Reading" column, get into small groups, and have one student record the group members' names. The recorder should then draw a chart like the following on a separate piece of paper, numbering from 1-9. Tally the number of "yes", "no" and "?" responses for each question, as shown in the **example** below.

Statement	Yes	No	I Don't Know
#1	3	2	0
#2			
#3			

Once you have collected your data, discuss those issues about which your group was divided. Make your case for your opinions, and pay attention to your classmates' arguments. Once you have discussed all of the issues, return to your seat and answer the following questions on your own on the back of your paper or on a separate sheet of paper.

**Individual Reflection**

1. Which statement (1-9) triggered the most thought-provoking or interesting discussion?
2. Summarize the discussion/debate.
3. For any of the statements which were discussed, what were some of the strongest or most memorable points made by your group members?
4. How did you react when a group member disagreed with your opinion about an issue? Did anything a group member said make you want to change your opinion?