**Socratic Seminar IV**

Is the use of alternative medicines and practices backed up by sound science?

**This packet includes the following texts:**

Information sheet: *Herbal Medicine*

Four cartoons

Article: *Applying Science to Alternative Medicine*

Article: *Rethinking Herbal Medicine*

Blog post: *Alternative Medicine: Why science is Being Ignored and What to Do About It*

Herbal medicine label: *St. John’s Wort*

**Questions to ponder as you read and annotate:**

Why do people use alternative medicines or seek alternative treatments?

What evidence is there for the efficacy of alternative medicines?

Who should determine whether a medicine or a medical practice can be used by the public?

What is our knowledge of people’s historical use of alternative medicines?

What are the possible biases involved on either side of the argument?

Food for thought: *“You know what they call alternative medicine that's been proven to work? - Medicine.”* (Tim Minchin, British comic)