

Socratic Dialogue

Overview

For this assignment, you'll need to craft a Socratic dialogue about a relevant issue, topic, or event. More specifically, a Socratic dialogue or discussion is one between two participants (sometimes more) who begin with a broad commonly held or conjectured idea and seek to come to a focused understanding. This understanding might solve a problem, or it might simply highlight a problem for observation. Socratic dialogues can be short or long, and they can relate to any topic or issue; however, such dialogues most often take up ideas or topics that draw strong opinions, emotions, and passions.

We read Plato's *Crito* in class as an example of a Socratic dialogue. *Crito* begins with a broader discussion of justice and injustice and then focuses on the injustice Socrates faces. The dialogue is a discussion of whether an injustice can be rectified through another injustice. Your dialogue should take up similarly serious ideals and questions. This assignment may be more difficult than you're used to because it forces you to think about your argument in a different way than a simple paper.

You will need to submit the text of your dialogue and perform it in front of the entire class. This is a partnered or triad assignment.

A Few Dialogue Ideas to Get You Started

- Black Lives Matter
- Capital Punishment
- Environmental Activism (Violent vs Peaceful)
- Common Core
- Social Media Activism
- Religion as Moral Compass
- There are lots of other topics! Think outside the box.

Assignment Details

- ❖ Length: 4-5+ pages
- ❖ Formatting: 12 point size font, 1 inch margins, single-line spacing, an appropriate typeface, and consistent style (point-of-view, tense, etc)
- ❖ File Naming: Your file name should include your last name, course number, and assignment title (e.g. KaysENG102_SocraticDialogue.docx)

Helpful References

Socratic Dialogue (Argumentation): <http://grammar.about.com/od/rs/g/Socratic-Dialogue.htm>

Socratic Questioning: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socratic_questioning

Socratic Method: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socratic_method

The Socratic Dialogue—Step by Step: <http://cl.ly/1H3w1y0S0r06>

Socratic Dialogue: Teaching Patients to Become Their Own Cognitive Therapist: <http://cl.ly/2w2G3B392E1U>