



## USING THE MAIEUTIC METHODOLOGY FOR THE EVALUATION OF ONLINE SOURCES

<b>Target group</b>	Adult learner
<b>Setting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frontal lecture</li> <li>• Group work</li> <li>• Plenary</li> </ul>
<b>Time</b>	90 minutes

MATERIALS NEEDED	
MATERIAL	Y/N
Projector	Y
Flipchart	N
Printed handout	Y
Other (please specify): PC, Internet, Account on MIRO (visual collaboration platform)	Y

Exercising your critical thinking skills is a prerequisite for evaluating and properly selecting information sources from the massive amount of results that the Internet offers nowadays. And what is better than exercising critical thinking following the example of the father of philosophy: Socrates?

Using the method of Socrates for eliciting knowledge in the mind of a person by interrogation and insistence on close and logical reasoning<sup>1</sup>, is very useful also in the context of teams. That is why we chose an online interactive platform, aka MIRO2, as a tool to practice our method with the use of new technologies.

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/maieutic#:~:text=adj,ective,on%20close%20and%20logical%20re%20reasoning> Last access: 10/02/22  
<sup>2</sup> <https://miro.com> Last access: 10/02/22

### PREPARATION

All you need is to be willing to practice your critical thinking skills and to collaborate within a team of adult learners. Follow the guidance of your instructor, who will also manage the team conversation, and answer the questions.

The worksheet provided serves as additional support offering a scenario on how to combine the maieutic methodology with Miro Tool for the effective evaluation of Internet sources.





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### METHOD / PROCESS DESCRIPTION

The Maieutic (Socratic) method was derived from the Greek philosopher, Socrates. In order to delve into his students' view, he would ask them questions until any contradictions were exposed. Socrates also used this method of questioning to encourage people to question the things they were told and to look beyond the obvious.

To adjust this method to new era standards and needs (e.g. distance-learning activities), we chose a quite useful online tool: Miro. It is the online collaborative whiteboard platform that enables distributed teams to work effectively together, brainstorming with digital sticky notes.

#### Tasks

The Socratic Method leads to critical thinking skills by showing learners how to identify the weak points in an argument. Once they can identify what makes an argument weak, they can advance with the development of the argument at a higher level.

By teaching learners to respond to questions quickly, it prepares them for the final rapid-fire questioning by the instructor. In this way, the Socratic questioning and critical thinking technique is ideal for leading a discussion within a team in a spontaneous, yet explanatory and issue-specific way. In our case, the central "issue" is the critical evaluation of internet sources (articles, news, facts?).

Since the Socratic Method is at the heart of critical thinking and Miro is one of the most popular online collaborative platforms, we will combine them at the scenario, presented in the following worksheet.

