



PRACTICING THE MAIEUTIC METHOD WITH MIRO - USING THE METHOD OF SOCRATES TO EVALUATE ONLINE SOURCES

HOW TO COMBINE THE MAIEUTIC METHOD WITH AN ONLINE COLLABORATIVE PLATFORM FOR GROUP LEARNING ACTIVITIES ON CRITICAL THINKING?

The Maieutic (Socratic) method was derived from the Greek philosopher, Socrates. To delve into his students' views, 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.¹

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.

¹<https://www.alu.edu/alublog/understanding-the-socratic-method-of-teaching/> Last access:10/02/22

This exercise deals with the topics of:

- critical thinking
- online sources
- digital collaborative tools
- evaluation of





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TIP: You could adjust the topic of analysis according to your interests. The Socratic Method is also applicable to the critical examination of modern social issues.

SCENARIO

Examine the following statement:

“Violence and radicalization trends are on the rise in Europe”

The aforementioned conclusion was drawn by Dr. Richard Burchill, an independent researcher based in Brussels, and published as an opinion article² on the “European Eye on Radicalization” website, on 12/01/22.

² Stochastic Terrorism: Why This Is A Worrying Trend And Who Bears Responsibility To Curb This Phenomenon <https://eeradicalization.com/stochastic-terrorism-why-this-is-a-worrying-trend-and-who-bears-responsibility-to-curb-this-phenomenon/>. Last access: 11/02/22





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SCENARIO

Evaluate the veracity of this statement and this internet source.

What is your final team conclusion?

Do you agree or not?

First of all, ask your participants if they believe that the previous statement is true or false. Guide the digital brainstorming of the team –through **Miro**– leading them to provide **short answers** and present them as **sticky notes**, on the following categories of questions:

- Why do you say that? (a question for clarification)
- How can you verify or disapprove of that assumption? (a question that probes assumption)
- What do you think causes this to happen and why? (a question that probes reasons)
- How does this statement apply to everyday life? (questioning the question)
- What are the consequences? (a question that probes implication)

Note: The visual representation of the team brainstorming through the collection of Miro sticky notes will enhance the critical assessment procedure impact.

