

A short Socratic dialogue

About student actions at the university because of the situation in Gaza

teaching method?

to collectively explore perspectives, values, and experiences

for insight and understanding

Steps in a socratic dialogue

1. Identification of the theme and meaningful opening questions
2. Selection by participants of an opening question
 - short, non-empirical/ preferably conceptual,
related to [a concrete experience](#)
3. All participants recall one relevant experience and consider:
 - [where was I, with whom, what did I think/feel and want at that moment](#)
4. One participant briefly explains their own experience
5. The moderator and participants ask clarifying questions about the 'heat point':
 - the crucial moment in the experience for the question (in pairs in 6-8 minutes)
6. What is an answer to the question following this explored experience?
 - possibly repeat step 4-6 with another participant
7. Formulate a life principle in imperative (in 3-6 words)
8. Evaluation



A short socratic dialogue: some rules



Dialogue/inquiry: postpone judgment / advice

- Respect the chairperson, who guides, decides who shall speak, and doesn't interfere with the content (but: time-out)
- Listen carefully & respectfully to each other
- Empathize: try to see the world through the eyes of the speaker
- Be concise and specific, no monologues

Sample questions: more general and concrete

When is it okay to ask for solidarity?

How far does solidarity go?

(when) does the goal justify the means? Or:

May you inflict harm to denounce greater harm?

What is complicity?

What is independent scholarship?

(When) may a university involve the police against students?

How far may students go in expressing one's opinion within the university?



Sample questions to start a socratic dialogue

1. What is peaceful (in reference to peaceful demonstration)?
2. What is violence? (in reference to the involvement of police who may use force, cq. some protesters using force).
3. When is the use of force justified?
4. How much individual self-determination do you have in a group (or group action)? (because not everyone participating in a collective action endorses all the goals or means).
5. What is expressing yourself clearly as an individual with a group?
6. When is a dialogue valuable?

If there is no concrete experience, but there is a concrete issue: moral deliberation

1. What are the facts?
2. What is the main moral question?

Is it morally right for me as a person/ organization to perform act B, despite...?

3. Who are affected by the act?
4. Who – besides you- is responsible?
5. Is additional information needed?
6. What arguments are there? Are there other courses of action?
7. Weigh the arguments and conclude:

I choose to do ... , this is morally right because, ..., despite ...

8. How do I feel about this?

