



The Socratic Method:

- ✓ It is a different style of education than a lecture. This approach involves a conversation in which a student is asked to question their assumptions. It is a forum for open-ended inquiry, one in which both student and teacher can use probing questions to develop a deeper understanding of the topic.
- ✓ Although it's unknown who first used this approach in history, the method is named for Socrates, an ancient Greek philosopher who was known for these types of conversations. Think of the Socratic Method as mainly back and forth between a teacher, like Socrates, and a student. These types of conversations do not necessarily find all of the answers, but they raise new questions for consideration.
- ✓ The Socratic Method has sometimes been portrayed in movies or by particular teachers as an intimidating experience, where a teacher tries to put down the student's knowledge. However, the modern application of the method is mainly about gaining a deeper understanding of a topic and not about condemning a student. The goal is greater knowledge, not just winning an argument or showing you to be superior.

THE SIX TYPES OF SOCRATIC QUESTIONS:

Socratic questioning is at the heart of critical thinking and a number of homework problems draw from **R.W. Paul's six types** of Socratic questions:

1. Questions for clarification:

- Why do you say that?
- How does this relate to our discussion?
- "Are you going to include diffusion in your mole balance equations?"

2. Questions that probe assumptions:

- What could we assume instead?
- How can you verify or disapprove that assumption?
- "Why are neglecting radial diffusion and