

Street Epistemology

Applying tools of critical thinking to foundational beliefs through honest conversation

Stages of Socratic Method

Wonder
Determine belief

<<< Initiate intervention >>>
Establish rapport
Elicit belief & commitment level

Remember:

1. **Praise** - cooperation and commitment to dialogue
2. **Pause** - encourage self-reflection & take time yourself
3. **Model** - empathy, humility, systematic engagement

Potential Lines of Inquiry
(tailor to the interlocutor, using their definitions and examples)

Hypothesis
Knowledge claim

How did you come to this belief?

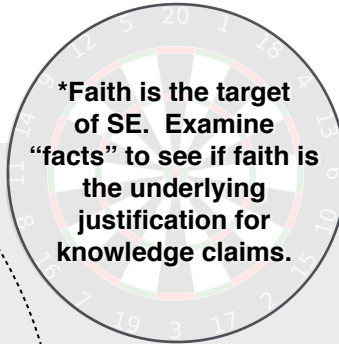
Restate hypothesis, combining belief and method

Elenchus
Question & Answer

Identify possible discrepancies by exploring:

- Assumptions/Fallacies
- Nature of reality
- Social influences
- Outsider's Test
- Testability/Defeasibility

Is this method* a reliable pathway to truth?



Accept or Revise Hypothesis
Relate to initial claim

Reject hypothesis

Deny contradiction

Revise hypothesis

Act Accordingly
Post-intervention support

How does this affect your commitment to the belief?

Closed

Re-engage as time allows;
Plant seeds of reason

Open

Encourage belief revision:

- Value reliable ways of knowing
- Remain open to new evidence
- Apportion confidence to evidence

- How do you define that?
- Can you give me an example?
- Can you think of any other possibilities?
- Can we know if a belief is true by using faith?
- Do you use faith in any other decision-making situations?
- Is faith a reliable way to make decisions about the world?
- Is it possible to differentiate faith from delusion?
- Is it possible that some people misconstrue reality?
- Would you accept evidence that might show your belief is mistaken?
- Do you revise your beliefs based on new evidence?
- If many people believe, does that make it true?
- Is it possible to know if a belief is true if it depends on where you were born?
- Is it possible to determine which of two mutually-exclusive beliefs is true by using faith?
- Do social attachments affect your desire to know what is true?
- How can you be sure you believe in the correct god?