

Does the Socratic Approach develop a deeper understanding of what is required from each research element if applied to an online form?

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Abstract

The Socratic model is a teaching method that emphasizes critical thinking and active participation by students in the learning process. It is based on the principles of the ancient Greek philosopher Socrates, who believed that true learning occurs when students are actively engaged in questioning and discussing ideas. In the Socratic method, the teacher plays the role of a facilitator, guiding students through a process of questioning and discussion. This process is designed to encourage students to think critically and arrive at their own understanding of a concept or idea. By following a Socratic inspired structured approach to the research proposal, students are provided with constraints to support their creativity. Students complete a form which stipulates the questions students need to consider when deciding on their research variables. Students showed a level of understanding for the applications of the research theory they had answered questions about. It's also important to note that the application of a structured approach can also help to minimize subjectivity and bias in the selection of concepts, leading to more objective and data-driven decision-making. Students were rewarded by having their research variables constructed into 3 possible research topics. This proved useful for tracking and provision of bespoke student support. It also allowed for a deeper understanding to be developed by students by engaging their critical thinking skills by evaluating their own externally constructed ideas. This model was applied to other aspects of the research proposal to enhance understanding of what is required from each research element.

Keywords: Socratic Approach, Student Research, Bespoke Support, Online Forms, Rewards