

Chapter 10 – Socratic Circle: The Main Cause of Death

1. While they were spectators attending a javelin-throw contest, Protagoras and Pericles sadly ended up as witnesses to the accidental death of their fellow-spectator Epitimus.



Indeed during the javelin-throw contest, one of the athletes accidentally killed Epitimus with a javelin, and then Pericles and Protagoras spent the rest of the day investigating the question of what *mainly* caused the accidental death of poor Epitimus. In light of everything that you have experienced in both the *inner* Socratic circle and the *outer* Socratic circle, answer the following five questions. In your opinion, what was the main cause of death? Explain.

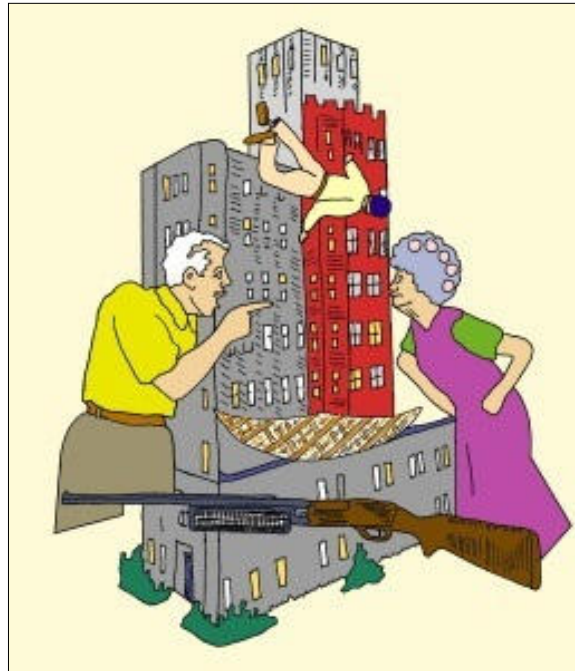
2. While he was on the 80th floor of a very tall skyscraper, Ronald Opus was pushed off of the balcony. Yet as he was falling passed the 9th floor, his life was interrupted by a shotgun blast through the window of an apartment on the 9th floor. The bullet from the shotgun struck him in the head, and he died instantly. Hence rather than dying from the fall, he died from a gunshot wound to his head.



Who killed Ronald Opus? What was the main cause of his death? Explain.

3. Unbeknownst to the shooter, an unbreakable safety net had been erected at the 5th floor. So, if Mr. Opus hadn't been struck in the head by the bullet while he was falling passed the 9th floor, then he would have survived the fall, because the safety net would have caught him at the 5th floor. So, who killed Ronald Opus? What was the main cause of his death? Explain. (Does it matter whether or not Mr. Opus knew about the net?)

4. The bullet that killed Ronald Opus had come through the window of a 9th floor apartment that was home to an elderly couple. At the time when Ronald Opus died, the elderly couple were having a heated argument with each other, and the husband was threatening his wife with a shotgun.



Even though the old man was *trying* to aim the gun at his wife, he'd become so upset that he couldn't hold the shotgun straight. Hence when he pulled the trigger, he totally missed his wife, and the bullet from his gun travelled out of the apartment window, where it struck Ronald Opus in the head. Who killed Ronald Opus? What was the main cause of his death? Explain.

