

Socratic Method

Group Project

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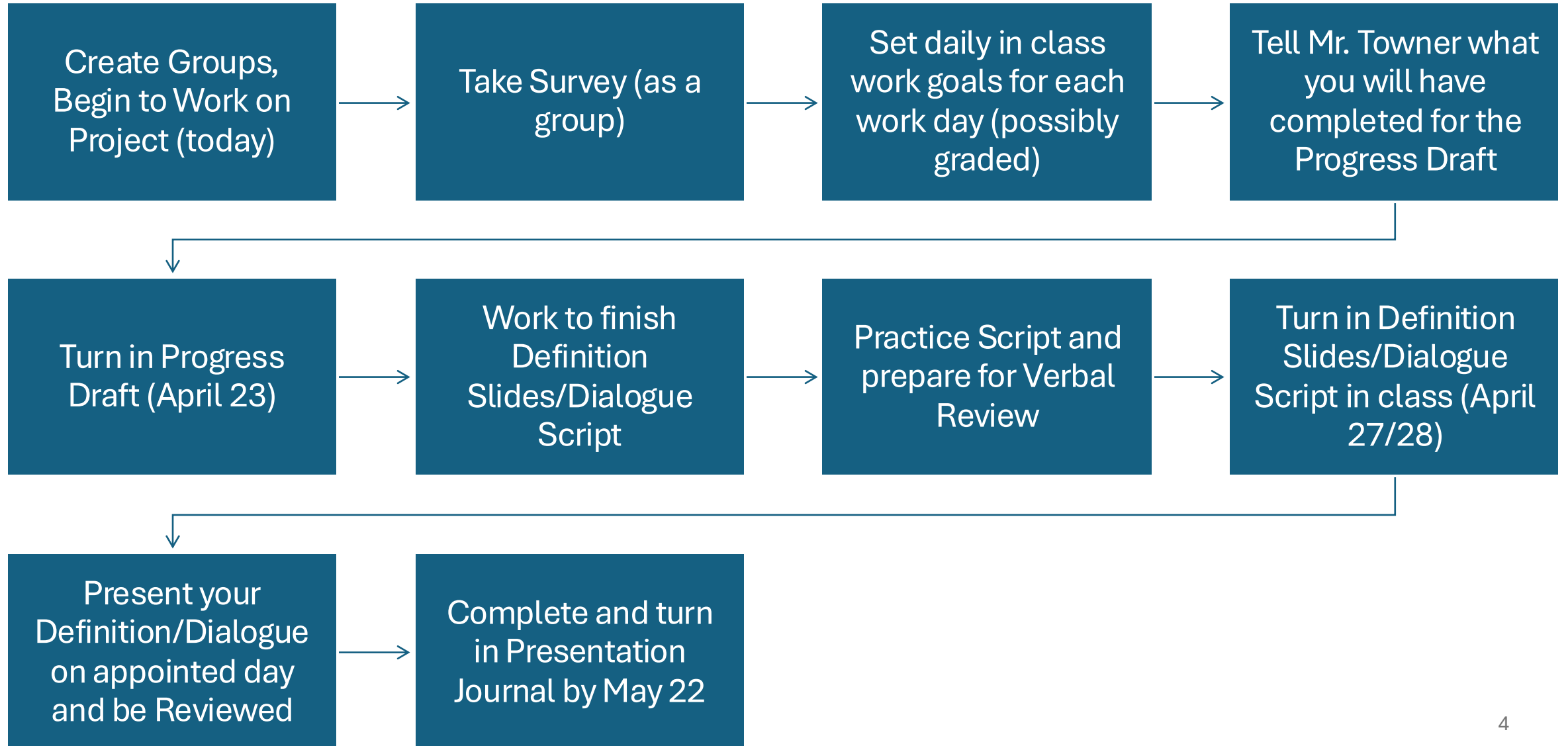
Suggested Process

1. Create your group and select a question
2. Review pages 7-13 (instructions)
3. Gather examples (clear ones and unclear ones)
4. Discuss your examples to see which ones you want to include and why
5. Think of a definition you want to argue for; think of other definitions that you would want to argue against
6. Analyze both definitions in terms of your examples and possible counterexamples; discuss
7. Create Definition Slides (see page 7)
8. Create characters/backstories/motivations
9. Write the Dialogue Script (see page 8)
10. Make sure the dialogue contains enough good material to last at least 5 minutes
11. Check that the dialogue contains each part of the Socratic Method (1-5) and each specified part of the conversation (1-8)
12. Practice the Presentation; time yourself
13. Think about possible ways the Verbal Class/Teacher review could go and try to think about how you would respond

Grading and Due Dates

- Grades and Grade Types:
 - 2 **Test** Grades
 - 1 Socratic Method **Definition Slides/Dialogue Script**
 - Due Date: **April 27th (A, C, D, E) April 28th (B)**
 - 1 Socratic Method **Performance/Teacher Review**
 - Due Date: **To be completed on appointed presentation day**
 - 1 **Quiz** Grade
 - Progress Draft
 - Due Date: **April 23**
 - 1 **Classwork** Grade
 - Class Presentation **Journal** (found in 'Homework' on Archie)
 - Due Date: After Presentations are over (**May 22**)

Chart



Groups and Question Selection

- Group Size: 2-3
- Group Composition: You may pick your own groups, but I need to approve them
- Each group project's topic will be one question
- Your group may select a question on a first come/first serve basis
 - Only one group per question

Question List

- What is art?
- What is music?
- What does it mean to be alive?
- What does it mean to be conscious?
- What kinds of things have rights?
- What is freedom?
- What is justice?
- What is it mean to own something?
- What is moral rightness?
- What is a story?
- What is religion?
- What is science?
- What does it mean to be funny?
- What does it mean to be happy?
- What does it mean to be mature?
- What is a game?
- What is a hole?
- What is a mind?

Definition Slides Instructions

Create a Presentation with the Following:

- (page 1) A cover page slide with relevant art, your group members, and your question
- (page 2-6) 5 slides with a clear and obvious example of what you're trying to define
 - These slides must contain a picture/art (if this is not possible, let me know)
 - This must be class-appropriate
 - These slides must contain a detailed description of the specific example
- (page 7-9) (at least) 3 slides with an example that is an unclear/controversial case that is debatable
 - These slides must contain a picture/art (if this is not possible, let me know)
 - This must be class-appropriate
 - These slides must contain a detailed description of the specific example
- (page 10) A slide with a clear statement of your definition
- (page 11) A slide where you present a detailed discussion of why you think your definition is a good one
 - Include in your discussion how your definition accurately predicts/explains your examples
 - Discuss any possible counterexamples and how you would respond
- (page 12) A slide containing (at least) one decent definition that some reasonable person might think **BUT YOUR GROUP THINKS IS WRONG**
- (page 13) A slide where you present a detailed discussion of why you think the definition from slide 13 is wrong
 - Include in your discussion whether your opponent's definition predicts/explains your examples
 - Discuss at least one possible counterexample

Dialogue Script Instructions

Create a Presentation with the Following:

- (page 1) A slide giving the name and backstory of (at least) two characters for your Socratic Dialogue
 - This backstory should thoughtfully reflect the motivations behind the roles and ideas that the characters will express in the dialogue
- (page 2) A slide where you explain:
 - Who plays what role in the dialogue script you are about to present and...
 - How and where the audience can tell where each part (1-5) of the Procedure for Finding Definitions is happening
 - This explanation should be CLEARLY reflected in your dialogue script (what everyone's looking at as you're presenting)
- (variable) Write Script Slides that establish the background for your characters
- (variable) Write Script Slides for a Socratic Dialogue containing at least the following parts:
 1. Introduction/background (can be narrated)
 2. Dunning-Kruger/Overconfidence
 3. Socratic Irony
 4. Discuss examples
 5. Question: what do they have in common?
 6. Answer: starter definition (the one your group thinks is decent BUT YOU THINK IS WRONG)
 7. Counterexamples/Counterarguments/Critical Questions
 8. Revision to the definition your group THINKS IS CORRECT (this may take several rounds of revision)
- You are also encouraged to include parts in your script involving aporia, anger/offense, curiosity/wonder, encouragement, discussion about examples etc.
- The script should have detailed discussion and the conversation should be natural and display philosophical depth

Script Time Requirements

The Script should take at least 5 minutes to perform

Significant deviations from this time requirement will lower your
grade

Presentation Instructions

- After your group uploads the Presentation on Archie, you will present it on your designated presentation day
- Each person in the group should be prepared to present part of the presentation
- In particular, each person must have a significant speaking role in the dialogue (either a major character or a narrator)
- Practice so that you know who will present each parts and what those parts say
- The presentation will be projected in front of the class; you will not need to memorize any part of it

Upload Instructions

- You may upload the Definition Slides and Dialogue Script as a single PDF to Archie
- Or, you may email the presentation/Canva link/whatever to my email (please let me know when you have done this)
 - ted.towner@archimedean.org
- On the due date, you must check with me to ensure that I have received and can open the documents/links you submit

Definition Slides/Dialogue Script Checklist

Definition Slides

- All required slides present with required content
- Slides are created artfully, clearly, attractively, and in an organized manner
- Examples make sense, are varied, and are well explained
- Analysis of definitions (both the one you accept and the one you reject) is thoughtful and contains plausible counterexamples

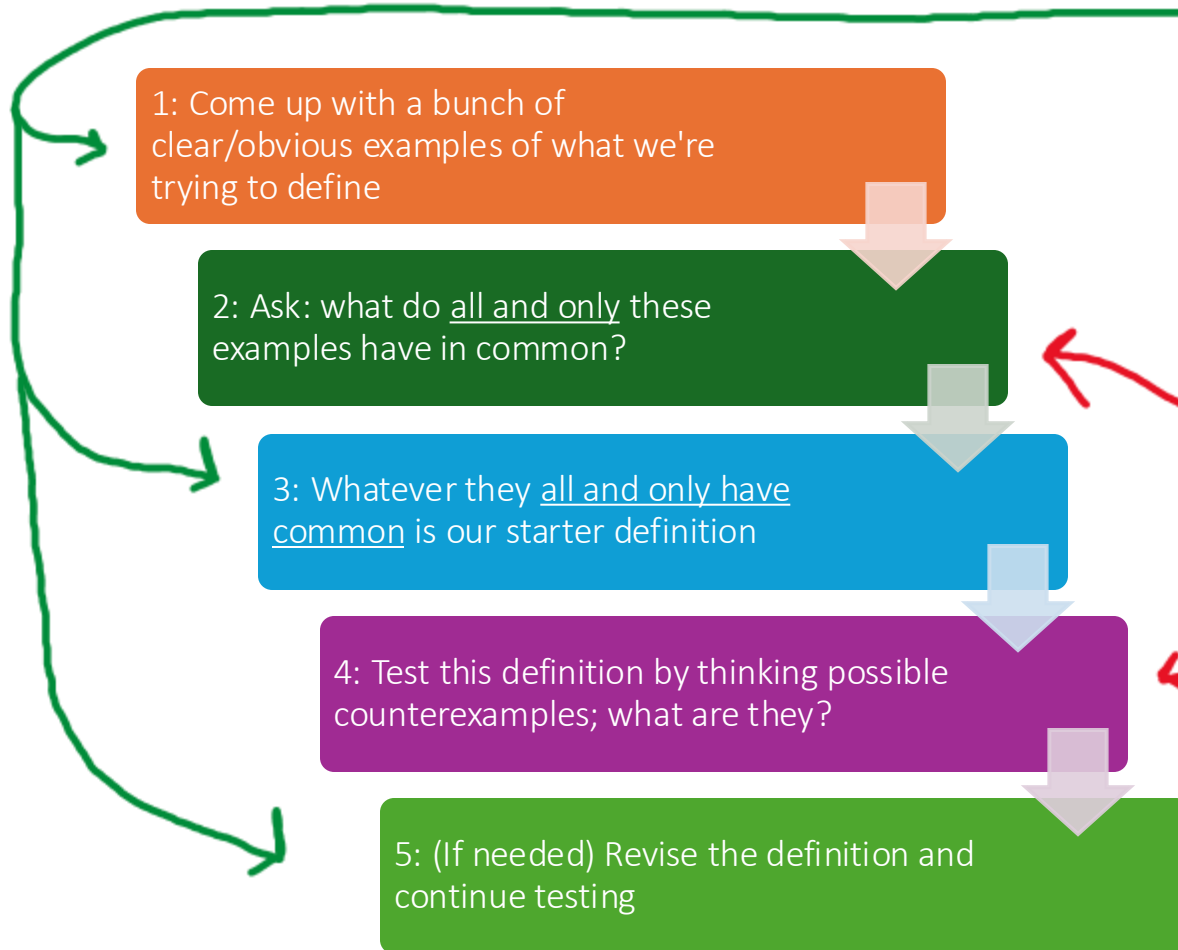
Dialogue Script

- Script Slides are created clearly, attractively, and in an organized manner
- Backstories and motivations of characters are interesting, plausible, correctly align with the role to be played in the dialogue
- Script clearly indicates who plays what role and how to keep track of the different parts of the Procedure for Finding Definitions
- Script contains all the required parts
- Script contains detailed and interesting conversations, and contains significant philosophical/conversational depth
- Performing the script takes at least 5 minutes

Verbal Class/Teacher Review

- Each group must be prepared to discuss/defend their presentation (both the Definition Slides and the Dialogue)
- Each group must be prepared to answer explanatory and critical questions about the definition and arguments more generally
- I may elect to use the audience and their work in their journals for this review
- It is highly encouraged that each group practice being questioned/reviewed for their presentation
- Failure to demonstrate a thoughtful and engaged discussion under review or evidence that the group is unable to support their ideas with arguments/responses will significantly impact the test grade

Resources: Procedure for Finding Definitions



- The person playing the **positive role** needs to come up with a starter definition that is both:
 - What all the examples have in common
 - What is necessary
 - What only those examples have in common
 - What is sufficient
- The person playing the **negative role** can try to challenge the starter definition either by arguing either:
 - It's false that all examples have that in common
 - It's false that only those examples have that in common

Resources: The Results of Aporia

