

Socrates On Campus

Exploring Life, Meaning, and Other Small Questions.

**Aims and Guidelines of Socrates on Campus.**

* Socrates on Campus is a discussion forum, where EVERYONE gets to share their view about the topic of discussion.
* **It is an Exploration, not a Debate.** It’s not about agreeing, or disagreeing with people, but simply hearing what other people believe about the big questions of life.
* **Expectations.** If you would like to be part of Socrates on Campus, these are some of the expectations:
  + **Be willing to share your views.** A discussion forum doesn’t really work all that well, if people don’t want to...discuss.
  + **Be willing to ask about, listen, and understand other people’s views..** We are here to explore other people’s views, not just our own.
  + **No vilifying or ridiculing other people’s view.** Keep it civil.
* **How to have a meaningful, civil discussion about big issues 101.** 
  + **Ask questions that clarify what the other person means.** 
    - ‘What do you mean by that?’ (or variations thereof).
  + **Ask questions that encourage people to show their reasoning.** 
    - ‘How did you come to that conclusion?’ (or variations thereof).
  + **Use ‘I’ statements about what you believe:**
    - I think that...I believe that...

**Quote to discuss:**

‘ I want to believe, and so do you, in a complete, transcendent, and immanent set of propositions about right and wrong, findablerules that authoritatively and unambiguously direct us how to live righteously. I also want to believe, and so do you, in no such thing, but rather that we are wholly free, not only to choose for ourselves what we ought to do, but to decide for ourselves, individually and as a species, what we ought to be. What we want, Heaven help us, is simultaneously to be perfectly ruled and perfectly free, that is, at the same time to discover the right and the good and to create it.’

* *Yale Law Professor Arthur Leff, 1979*

**Questions that may help the discussion:**

1. What do you think Leff means?
2. Which parts do you agree with (and why)?
3. Which parts do you disagree with (and why)?