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SOCRATES



A Re-creation of His 399 B.C. Trial for Treason



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PURPOSE

Ancient Athens is remembered as the birthplace of democracy, a small city-state where freedom of thought and expression existed on a scale that had never been seen before and has seldom been equaled since. Yet in 399 B.C. Athens had to choose between the principles of democracy and free speech when three citizens brought charges against Socrates, a 70-year-old teacher and philosopher. Socrates' exercise of freedom of expression had so threatened Athenian democracy that his accusers demanded the death penalty as the only solution. Although this request seems harsh today, our own experience with democracy has revealed that free speech can sometimes disrupt a society to the point that citizens wonder whether it is worth the price.

S O C R A T E S

The trial of Socrates helps students examine the complementary, and sometimes conflicting, ideals of democracy and free speech and formulate their own conclusions about the proper role of each in society. As your students participate in the activity they should experience the following:

Knowledge

1. Understanding the importance of the city-state in the life of ancient Greece
2. Understanding the Athenian view of justice

Attitudes

1. Appreciating the difficulty of balancing free expression with the survival of democratic institutions
2. Realizing that Athens was on trial along with Socrates

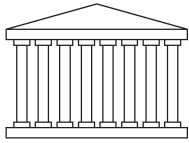
Skills

1. Speaking clearly and forcefully before a group
2. Evaluating evidence to reach conclusions



OVERVIEW

The trial of Socrates focuses student attention on two important questions:



- *Can a democracy exist without freedom of thought and expression?*
- *Should free speech be permitted if it threatens the existence of democratic institutions?*

Those issues were deliberated in Socrates' day, and they continue to spark debate in contemporary society.

The activity re-creates the famous trial in 399 B.C. in which Socrates was accused by three fellow citizens—Anytus, Meletus, and Lycon—of worshipping false gods and corrupting the youth of Athens. Although the full text of the indictment does not exist today, much of its substance was recorded in the dialogues of Plato, who attended the trial.

By modern standards, the indictment seems vague. At no time is Socrates accused of violating a city statute. He participated in required religious observances and did not commit libel or slander, since Athenians had no such laws. Socrates' prosecution, rather, stemmed from his teaching and beliefs. The philosopher was tried for what he said rather than what he did.

The activity is designed to closely follow the procedures of the actual trial. As in ancient Athens, there are no lawyers; the accusers and the accused give orations before a large jury, whose members have been chosen by lot. As in the historical trial, the jury will vote twice. The first vote is for conviction or acquittal. In the case of conviction, the next vote will be to determine punishment. In Socrates' day the jury could not propose a penalty of its own but had to choose between that proposed by the prosecution (in this case, death) and the penalty proposed by the defense.



HISTORICAL ACCURACY

Several changes were made to adapt the historical trial to a modern classroom. They are as follows:

1. In ancient Athens juries were composed of 500 citizens. A majority of students in the class should serve as jurors in the trial re-creation.
2. In reality Socrates was the only person who spoke in his defense. In the interest of balance, two of his disciples, Plato and Chaerephon, will also address the jurors.
3. Socrates' wife, Xanthippe, was not present at the trial, since women and slaves were not allowed at court. Her role in this drama is to underscore the fact that democracy in Athens was for free males only.
4. Plato's dialogues suggest that in the actual trial Meletus did most of the talking. The classroom activity will afford equal time to fellow accusers Anytus and Lycon in order to increase student involvement and portray the full range of objections that were voiced against Socrates by his critics.



Be certain that you go over the four points above briefly before the trial – and more thoroughly during debriefing.



SETUP DIRECTIONS



If you wish to encourage students to dress for their parts, duplicate the GREEK CLOTHING handout and include it in the Student Guide you staple together prior to beginning the re-creation.



1. About a week before the trial, duplicate the following materials, following the number in parentheses:
 - PRE-TRIAL SURVEY (one for each student)
 - UNIT TEST (one for each student)
 - HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ESSAY, BRIEF SUMMARY OF MAJOR ROLES, ROLE RESPONSIBILITIES, and COURT PROCEDURES (one for each student) *Staple together to make an introductory Student Guide before the re-creation begins.*
 - Individual role handouts (one per role)
 - JURORS handout (one per juror)
 - EPILOGUE (one for each student)
2. Role selection is very important to the outcome of this activity. Pick your most highly motivated students to be **Socrates**, **Plato**, **Chaerephon**, **Anytus**, **Meletus**, and **Lycon**. Either select a strong student to be the **Archon** or play the role yourself. This individual functions as head of the court tribunal. *He or she must be able to keep the activity functioning smoothly.*
3. In keeping with the Athenian custom of choosing jurors by lot, have a drawing for the following role assignments:
 - **Juror** This majority of students in the class will be expected to question witnesses following each oration, render a verdict, and keep reaction journals throughout the trial.
 - **Guard** (one student charged with keeping order during the proceedings)
 - **Xanthippe** (one female student) Xanthippe's role in the activity will be to attempt to speak on her husband's behalf in court. She will be denied participation on the grounds that she is a woman. As a result, she will spend the remainder of the activity on the sidelines, writing letters to relatives about what is occurring at court.
 - **Cristobulus** (one student)
 - **Apollodorus** (one student)
 - **Adeimantus** (one student)

Cristobulus, Apollodorus, and Adeimantus are followers of Socrates. Since the philosopher kept no written records of his work, his thoughts have been passed down through the writing of such students. Cristobulus, Apollodorus, and Adeimantus will play such a role by *carefully* recording the court proceedings on each day of the trial.
4. Encourage all students to supplement the information you give them by doing more research on their own. You may wish to award grades based on the following factors: preparation, role-playing, and testing.



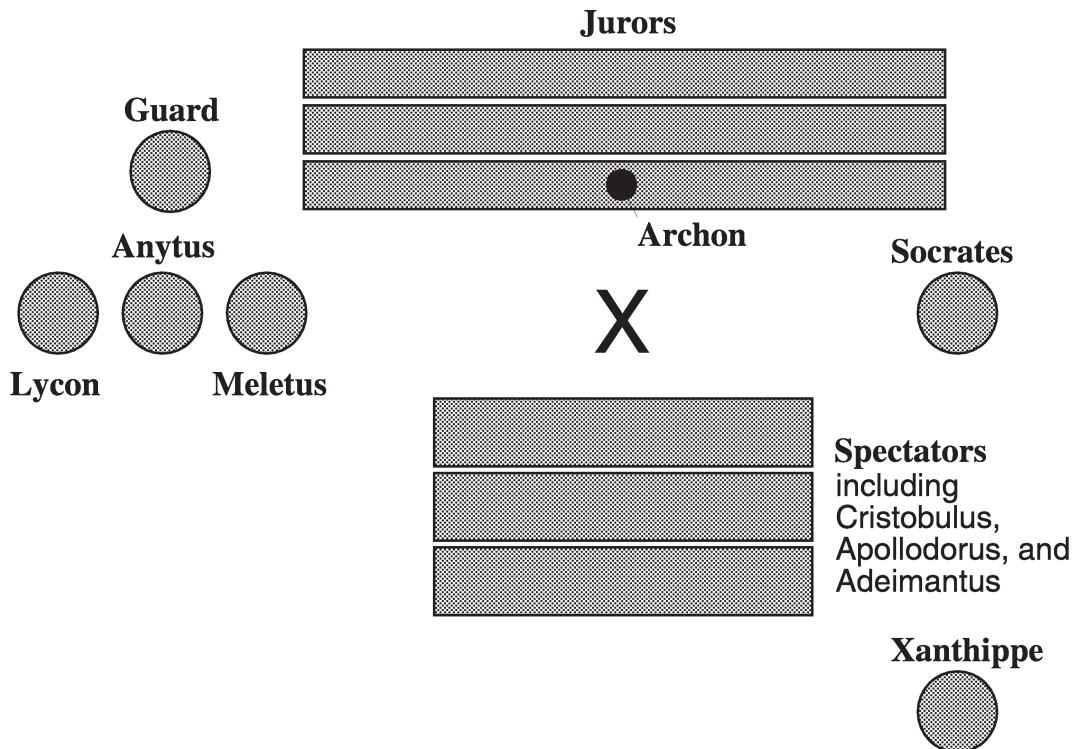
TEACHING SUGGESTIONS - 1

Three days before trial: Introduction

1. Briefly explain to students why they are going to study this trial. Then pass out Student Guides which you have made by stapling together several handouts.
2. Have students read the BRIEF SUMMARY OF MAJOR ROLES.
3. Explain how you have assigned roles to a few students as well as the historical justification for drawing the remaining roles by lot.
4. Complete the role selection and give students copies of their individual role responsibilities.
5. Have everyone read the HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ESSAY, then go over the Discussion Questions with the class.

Day 1: Background and preparation

1. Give the PRE-TRIAL SURVEY.
2. Arrange students in cooperative learning groups to discuss their responses.
3. Allow time for individual role preparation.
4. Decide how you will physically arrange the room for the trial. If available, risers effectively elevate the jurors. Here is a possible arrangement:





TEACHING SUGGESTIONS - 2

5. When addressing the jurors, speakers should stand in the area of the **X** found on the classroom illustration on the bottom of the previous page. In the actual trial, Socrates and his accusers sat on stools, while spectators leaned against columns in the open court or sat on stone benches. You may wish to simulate these conditions in the classroom.

Days 2-3: The trial

1. The actual number of periods devoted to the trial will vary according to the length of speeches, amount of questioning, extent of research, level of student interest, and your judgment.
2. Make sure all participants are positioned in their proper places. (*Note:* For added interest, Socrates' followers—Plato, Chaerephon, Cristobulus, Apollodorus, and Adeimantus—should follow Socrates in a group as he enters and exits the classroom. Students should be encouraged to wear costumes. Socrates should go barefoot and wear a tattered tunic or robe, while other students should wear sandals and tunics or robes that are in somewhat better condition. An example of how to use a sheet to make Greek clothing is found on the GREEK CLOTHING handout, which you may have chosen to include in the Student Guide you created before beginning the re-creation.
3. Before beginning the trial, ask if there are any questions. Remind jurors that they may question a witness upon completion of his oration.
4. Instruct the Archon to open the court by asking Meletus to read the indictments. See COURT PROCEDURES, pages 21-23.
5. When the trial has concluded, immediately ask jury members the reason for their verdict. Then ask witnesses how they would have voted had they been on the jury.





TEACHING SUGGESTIONS - 3

Day 4: Debriefing and testing

1. The following questions should serve as a discussion guide following the conclusion of the trial:



Debriefing Questions

- Could Athenian democracy have survived Socrates' questioning? Why or why not?
- Did Socrates corrupt the young people of Athens or lead them to wisdom? Why?
- Would Socrates be a good teacher for you? Why or why not?
- How would you rate Socrates? a great man? a pest? a subversive? a fool? Give reasons for your answer.
- Did Socrates have a right to give up worldly possessions when that action caused hardship for his family? Why or why not?
- Why did Socrates antagonize the jury when he knew his life was at stake?
- Is it possible to have democracy without freedom of expression?

Note: As a follow-up activity, students may be interested in researching cases when our government limited freedom of expression out of concern for a "greater good." The following cases would apply:

- the Sedition Act
- *Schenk v. United States*
- *Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier*

2. Distribute EPILOGUE and discuss.
3. Conclude the activity by giving the UNIT TEST. The key to the answers is as follows: 1. c, 2. c, 3. a, 4. b, 5. d, 6. d, 7. d, 8. b, 9. d, 10. d.



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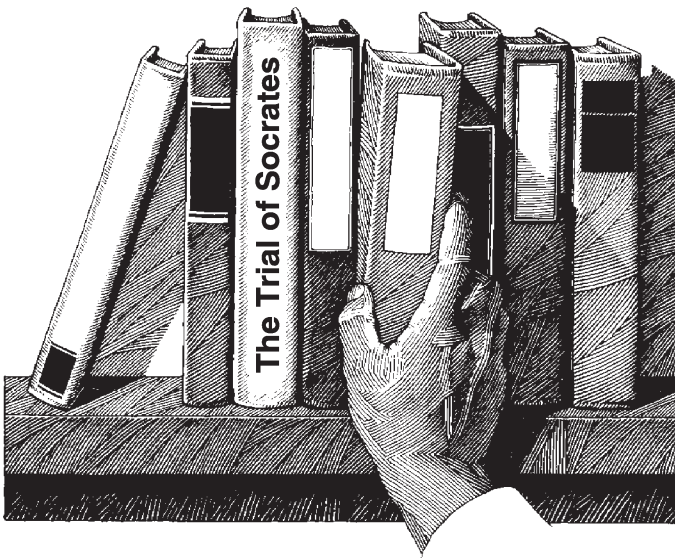
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*suitable for student use.



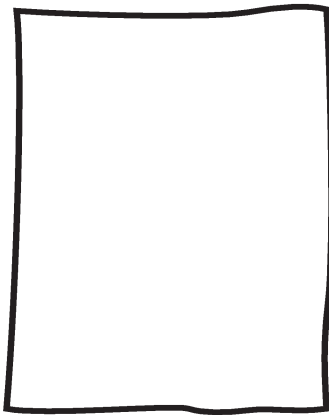
Work with your friendly school librarian to find books on Socrates and his historical period. Possibly you will want to set up a **Reserve Shelf: SOCRATES**.



GREEK CLOTHING

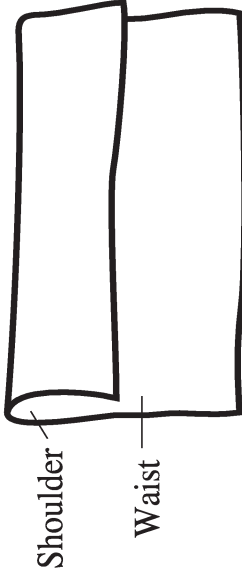
Lay the sheet lengthwise.

1



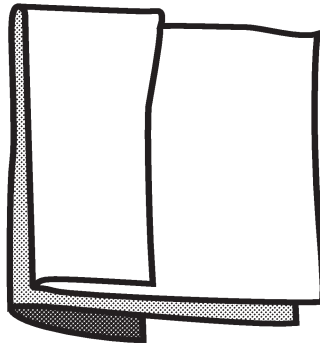
Fold over the top for desired shoulder-to-leg length.

2



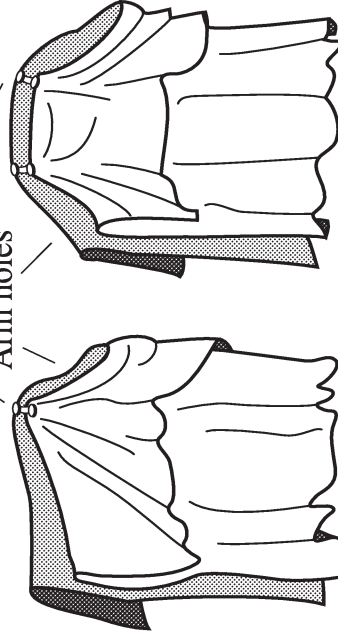
Fold in half.

3



Clasps
Arm holes

4



Fasten in the two places at the top.

GREEK CLOTHING MADE FROM A SHEET



PRE-TRIAL SURVEY

Your name _____

Directions: Circle **SA**, if you strongly agree; **A**, if you agree; **NO**, if you have no opinion; **D**, if you disagree; **SD**, if you strongly disagree.

1. Teachers should be judged by the successes and failures of their students.

SA A NO D SD

2. Young people should be taught to question authority.

SA A NO D SD

3. The best way to learn is by example.

SA A NO D SD

4. A wise person is someone who recognizes that he or she knows nothing.

SA A NO D SD

5. The rights of an individual are not as important as the rights of society as a whole.

SA A NO D SD

6. The best decisions are usually made by majority rule.

SA A NO D SD

7. Freedom of speech should not include the right to undermine democracy.

SA A NO D SD

8. A government has the right to impose the death penalty on serious offenders.

SA A NO D SD



UNIT TEST - 1

Your name _____

Multiple choice

1. The basis of Greek society was
 - a. the church
 - b. the king
 - c. the polis
 - d. the marketplace.

2. In ancient Athens jurors were chosen
 - a. by majority vote
 - b. by appointment of the king
 - c. by lot
 - d. by the Archon.

3. In some courts of ancient Athens charges could be brought by
 - a. any citizen
 - b. the prosecuting attorney
 - c. the Archon
 - d. citizens, slaves, or women.

4. Socrates was
 - a. a slave
 - b. a teacher
 - c. an artist
 - d. a merchant.

5. In real life Socrates was
 - a. set free
 - b. banished
 - c. fined
 - d. put to death.

6. Athens' major rival during Socrates' life was
 - a. Crete
 - b. Macedonia
 - c. Thebes
 - d. Sparta.



UNIT TEST - 2

Your name _____

7. When Socrates was brought to trial the government of Athens was
 - a. a monarchy
 - b. an oligarchy
 - c. a dictatorship
 - d. a democracy.

8. Greeks worshipped
 - a. one god only
 - b. many gods
 - c. no gods.

9. When Greeks wanted to learn the answers to difficult questions they went to
 - a. the Parthenon
 - b. the Acropolis
 - c. the Temple of Poseidon
 - d. the Oracle of Delphi.

10. Athens' "Golden Age" occurred under the leadership of
 - a. Agamemnon
 - b. Socrates
 - c. Achilles
 - d. Pericles.

Essay questions

1. In your view, was Socrates guilty of any serious offenses? Give reasons to support your answer.

2. If you were Socrates, what might you have said to the jurors if you wanted to be found "not guilty"?





HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ESSAY - 1

TWO SUGGESTED STUDY TECHNIQUES:

Consider using one of these two techniques while working with this background essay:

- 1. Look over the questions at the end of the essay before beginning serious studying of the essay. Note that key words have been typed in **bold ink**. Then while studying, look for answers to the seven questions.*
- 2. Read the essay first. Study it carefully, paying attention to the bold ink headings at the beginning of the paragraphs. (You should consider using a colored highlighting pen to mark key specific details that substantiate the **bold ink** headings.) After finishing the essay, try to answer the seven questions appearing at the end of the essay without looking back through the essay.*

Greek geography The Greeks called their land “Hellas” and themselves “Hellenes.” From earliest of times they believed they were different from other people and referred to all foreigners as “barbaros” or barbarians. The Greeks lived on land that was infertile and capable of supporting only a small population. Greece lay on a peninsula in southwest Europe surrounded by the Mediterranean, Aegean, and Ionian seas. Nearly impassable mountains forced its inhabitants to live in valleys separated from one another, on remote uplands, or on islands that were self-contained. It was difficult to invade the territory by land, but from the sea Greeks were vulnerable at many points. They understood that as long as they mastered the sea they would be free to develop their own culture without outside interference.

The polis As a result of this landscape, each district developed its own customs and local pride because it was separate, complete, and difficult to control from the outside. Greek life became organized around the “polis,” or city-state. The polis consisted of a city, usually surrounded by walls, which was the center of government, justice, and trade. The polis also encompassed outlying agricultural areas. Greeks regarded the city-state as the ideal unit of social organization which developed naturally from the family and village. Because all members of the polis lived in close proximity to one another, they developed a strong sense of unity and kinship.

The Greeks were very forthright in their social interactions, and the street or public square was a lively center of activity where all topics, especially politics, were discussed. Citizenship requirements varied among the city-states. Some restricted citizenship to a small number of people. Others, most notably Athens, made citizenship available to all free men. Although slavery existed there, Athens was a democracy. It gave citizens considerable leisure time with which to pursue poetry, sculpture, architecture, medicine, philosophy, and politics.

Religious practices Greek religious practices were also affected by the polis. The Greeks had many gods whom they used to explain what they could not understand. The most important lived at Mount Olympus: the mighty Zeus; his wife Hera; the warlike Ares; the beautiful Aphrodite; Poseidon, god of the sea; Hermes, messenger of the gods; Demeter, goddess of fertility and of the harvest; and others who were believed to control the destinies of mortal men.





HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ESSAY - 2

In addition, each city-state was believed to be protected by its own special deity who had his or her own temples or festivals. To neglect these gods was to neglect the polis itself. Athens was protected by Athena, the warlike goddess of wisdom who sprang directly from the head of Zeus. Athena was regarded as a patron of the arts and crafts. The city was also protected by Hephaestus, the lame god of fire, who had a special interest in craftsmen. Although in the time of Socrates some Greeks were beginning to talk about a simple principle behind the various gods—some referred to the principle as “god”—most described various deities who moved among men and took part in human affairs.

THE
GOLDEN
AGE
ENDS

Gods favor Athens For 14 years the gods bestowed their favor on Athens. Between 445 and 431 B.C. Athens experienced a “Golden Age” under Pericles, a general and statesman. During that time Athens was at peace, having concluded a long war with Persia and having signed an uneasy truce with her ancient enemy, the Greek city-state of Sparta. Pericles vowed to make Athens the most beautiful city in the world. He persuaded rich citizens to outfit ships, subsidize games, and patronize musical contests and plays. Pericles also extracted tribute from less powerful Greek city-states who, with Athens, formed the Delian Confederacy. This money was used to build the Parthenon, a temple to Athena, which was erected along with other temples on a fortified hill known as the Acropolis. It is said that Socrates, the son of a stonecutter, worked on some of the temples on the Acropolis before he became a full-time teacher and philosopher.

Golden Age ends Peace came to an end when in 432 B.C. a tiny peninsula in northern Greece called Potidaea declared its independence of Athenian power. The following year Sparta declared war on Athens. The Spartans were a strong military force since they had the custom of taking boys from their families at the age of seven and training them to be soldiers. Sparta, joined by some city-states that resented paying tribute to Pericles, laid siege to Attica, the province in which Athens was situated. Foreseeing a long siege, Pericles brought the farmers within the walls of Athens. A plague broke out in the crowded city. It lasted three years and killed a quarter of the soldiers and countless civilians. Pericles, receiving the blame for the war and plague, was removed from office. Though he was forgiven and resumed power again, Pericles, too, fell victim to the plague. The death of Pericles in 429 B.C. ended Athens’ “Golden Age.”

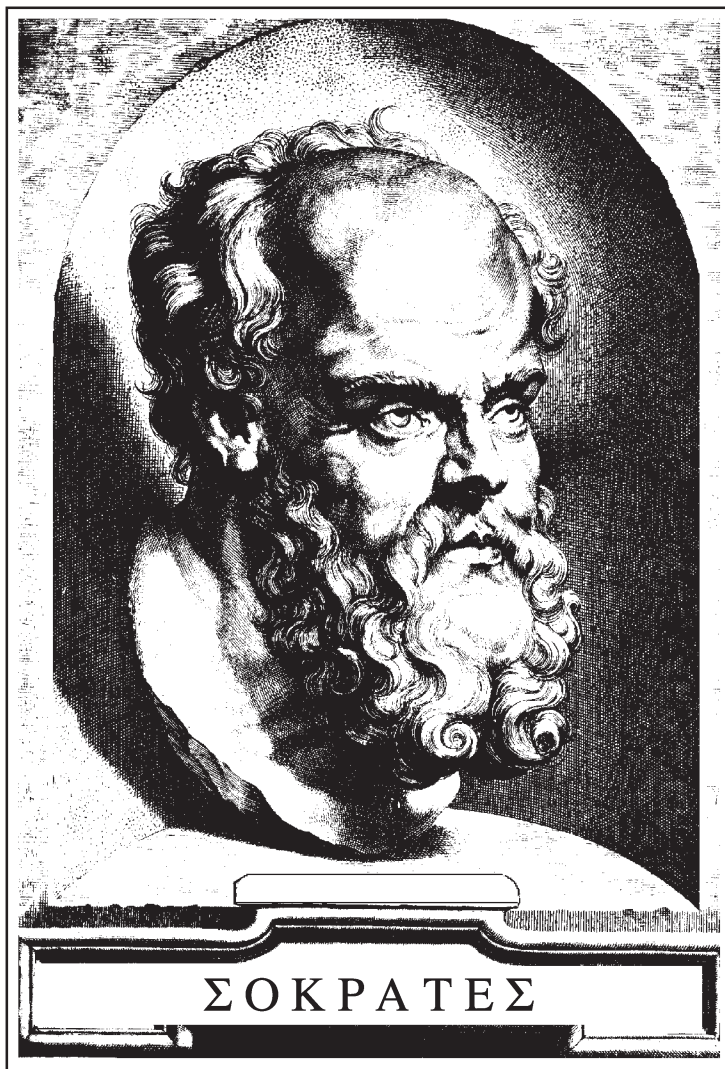


HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ESSAY - 3

Death penalty ordered War with Sparta had drained Athenian coffers. In desperation, citizens melted down gold and silver from their statues to raise money for a powerful fleet to defend Athens at sea. Slaves were promised their freedom, and foreigners were offered citizenship if they would man the crews.

In 406 B.C. the Spartan fleet was destroyed; however, Athens was not jubilant. The crews of the 25 ships had been lost in a storm without proper burial. According to Athenian beliefs, the souls of the dead would wander forever, blaming the city for their fate. The Athenian Assembly held a hasty trial, and the eight generals in charge of the expedition were put to death to appease the souls of the drowned sailors. This action was carried out over the opposition of Socrates. Later the Athenian Assembly had a change of heart and imposed the death penalty on orators who had “bewitched” them into executing the military leaders.

*Socrates by Paul Pontius
The New York Public Library*



More difficult times followed. Cities on the Aegean coast fell one by one to Sparta; and Lysander, the Spartans' leader, ordered a siege of Athens. A brave defense of the city lasted for three months. With food supplies gone and streets filled with the dead and dying, Athenians were forced to bow to Spartan military might. In 404 B.C. the city surrendered.

Council of Thirty established Lysander ordered that the walls around Athens be leveled and demanded the city's support in future wars. He did not destroy the city or make its inhabitants slaves of Spartan citizens. A Council of Thirty was set up to rule the city. This oligarchy (rule by a few) was unpopular in a city that had once been proudly democratic. The Thirty seized property of wealthy merchants, plundered the temples, exiled 5,000 citizens, and condemned 1,500 people to death. It also put an end to teaching, free assembly, and free speech.



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ESSAY - 4

“

*Socrates
alone went
home and
ignored the
order ...*

”

One of the leaders of the Council of Thirty was Critias, a former student of Socrates. Critias had heard Socrates criticize the weaknesses of Athenian democracy and believed the teacher would support the oligarchy. He was mistaken. When the Council of Thirty ordered five citizens, including Socrates, to arrest the democrat Leon of Salamis, Socrates alone went home and ignored the order. Critias forbade him to ever teach again or speak in public places.

Democracy restored The Council of Thirty had scarcely been in power for a year when it was overthrown, and democracy was restored to Athens in 403 B.C. Critias was killed along with Charmides, another former pupil of Socrates, who supported the Council of Thirty. The new government sought to restore Athens to its former greatness, but Socrates, because of his relationship with Critias, never regained the favor of his fellow citizens.

Discussion questions



*Notice the **bold ink** words and phrases at the right. They are typed in bold in order to call your attention to what you are to look for while studying this background essay.*

Good luck!

1. How did **geography** shape the development of Greek society?
2. What role did the **city-state** (polis) play in Greek life?
3. What were the **religious beliefs** of most Athenians?
4. What was the “**Golden Age**” of Pericles? Why did it end?
5. What was the **Council of Thirty**? Describe its impact on Athenian life.
6. What role did **Socrates** play in the life of Athens?
7. Why did Athenians feel that **democracy** could be easily threatened?



BRIEF SUMMARY OF MAJOR ROLES - 1

Note:

Each role will receive special identity handouts.

Archon You are responsible for seeing that the trial is conducted according to the laws of Athens. You are not a judge; rather, Socrates' verdict will be determined by jurors who are chosen by lot. Your role will be to begin court proceedings by having the indictments read, to keep testimony moving along smoothly, and to give a final speech to the jurors before they vote on Socrates' guilt or innocence.

Socrates A 70-year-old teacher and philosopher, you are charged by three fellow citizens on two counts: worshipping false gods and corrupting the youth of Athens. Although you question the wisdom of making governmental decisions by majority vote, you will give a speech in your own defense before a court of your fellow citizens. You feel that the charges against you are largely the result of unfounded rumors.

Anytus You are a wealthy tanner and respected citizen of Athens. Your reasons for bringing charges against Socrates are partly the result of personal experience. While you were absent from the city, your son became one of Socrates' pupils. The teacher taught him to question authority, and as a result your son never received the discipline necessary to live a productive life. In time he became a drunkard. You hold Socrates responsible for his wasted life as well as the failings of other youth who looked to this man for guidance.

Meletus You are a poet of limited success who, along with two fellow Athenians, accuse Socrates of worshipping false gods and corrupting the youth of Athens. Your testimony will largely center on the charge that Socrates is an atheist. Although there was no law against atheism in ancient Athens, you feel that Socrates neglects "the gods of the city," and thus threatens the existence of Athens itself.

Lycon You are a *rhetor*, which in ancient Athens was the predecessor to the lawyer. As one of the three accusers of Socrates, you will use your speaking ability to try to persuade the jury that his constant questioning is a threat to democracy. In particular you object to Socrates' claim that Athens should be governed by those who have ability and knowledge, rather than by those chosen by popular vote. Because of the negative effect Socrates has on the youth of the city and on the population in general, you feel Athens would be much better off if the teacher were put to death.



BRIEF SUMMARY OF MAJOR ROLES - 2



Plato As a pupil of Socrates, you have come to testify before the court on his behalf. You will attempt to persuade the jurors that Socrates' habit of questioning Athenian citizens is intended only to lead them to truth. You have learned from Socrates that knowledge is the highest virtue; without knowledge, right action is impossible. In your mind, free thought and expression is Athens' strength. You feel that Socrates is no threat to the city.

Chaerephon As a former pupil of Socrates, you are speaking to convince the jurors that he is Athens' wisest citizen. Years ago you asked the oracle at the Temple of Delphi, "Is anyone wiser than Socrates of Athens?" The oracle replied that none was wiser, and you shared that information with others in the city. Some citizens considered themselves wiser than he and looked for ways to discredit the teacher. You hope to convince the jury of the truth of the oracle and the falseness of Socrates' accusers.

Xanthippe A woman in your early 40s, you are Socrates' wife and the mother of his three children. Married life has been difficult since your husband never held a job and never accepted payment for teaching. The family has survived in meager circumstances. Your only source of income is an inheritance left by Sophroniscus the stonecutter, who was Socrates' father. You are widely viewed as a scolding shrew who criticizes Socrates for neglecting his family. Nevertheless, you will try to speak to the jurors to persuade them to release your elderly husband to you, hoping you will be able to keep him from speaking out in the future and endangering his life.

Cristobulus, Apollodorus, and Adeimantus As three followers of Socrates, you have a keen interest in the outcome of the trial. Although you will not speak to the jurors, you will record the trial proceedings on "papyrus rolls." This is an important function, since Socrates never wrote down his thoughts. Instead, his ideas were passed down to modern times through the writings of his pupils.

Guard Athenian justice was dispensed in open courts. Almost everyone in the city attended, except women and slaves, who were not admitted to public trials. The trial of Socrates is certain to draw a crowd of spectators, some sympathetic with the old man, some hostile, and others merely curious. Your job is to see that order is preserved. This means that you will prevent slaves and women from disrupting the proceedings. It also means that you will remove unruly spectators from the court. Even though the proceedings will be held in the open air, you must prevent the trial from turning into a circus.



BRIEF SUMMARY OF MAJOR ROLES - 3

Jurors You were chosen by lot and will serve as a juror for one year. According to the laws of Athens, jurors must rotate their position, and each citizen stands a chance of serving as a juror every third year. The trial of Socrates is certain to attract attention. Your job is to keep an open mind, listen to the testimony carefully, and question the witnesses at the end of their orations. In addition, you should keep a record of your impressions in your Reaction Journal. Finally, you must vote for Socrates' guilt or innocence after you have weighed the evidence. If the jury decides that he is guilty, you jurors must decide whether to put him to death.

Suggested note-taking process for jurors' Reaction Journals

Reactions/Character	Witnesses
Place two kinds of information on this page:	On this right hand side of your open notebook pages, write down the main points each witness presents.
1. Questions you wish to ask the witness if you have time to do so ... If you do not, possibly you can bring up your concerns if your jury meets to deliberate.	Try to be as accurate as you can while you write down what is said.
2. Reactions to the character of the witness ... The great Greek philosopher Aristotle said human beings persuade others by relying on three things: <i>logos</i> (the logic of their argument); <i>pathos</i> (the emotions they radiate); and <i>ethos</i> (the personal character they project to listeners). Ask yourself, "Does this speaker seem to have an honorable character?"	During moments when you suddenly doubt or wonder about what the witness is saying, then write a question on the page at the left.



ROLE RESPONSIBILITIES



Are you an enthusiastic person who enjoys embracing life? Did you see Robin Williams in Dead Poets Society where he recommends that we all “Seize the Day!”?

If so, consider dressing for your part by using a sheet to make a Greek costume. Possibly your teacher has duplicated for you the page on GREEK COSTUMES.

Archon, guard, and witnesses

1. Prepare for your part by carefully reading your role sheet in detail.
2. Study and follow the trial sequence as given in the COURT PROCEDURE section.
3. After the trial ends, write a one-paragraph description of your character. Indicate how much impact your role-playing had on the trial. Bring out your positive contributions as well as those points that could be improved.

Jurors

1. Read carefully and follow the trial as it is presented in the COURT PROCEDURE section.
2. Ask questions of the witnesses at the end of their speeches. Do not hesitate to ask a witness to clarify his testimony.
3. Record your impressions in your Reaction Journal. (See suggestions found on page 19.)

Xanthippe

1. Prepare for your part by carefully reading your role sheet in detail.
2. Study and follow the trial sequence as given in the COURT PROCEDURE section.
3. After your court appearance, follow the testimony and write letters to your relatives about what is happening at court.

Cristobulus, Apollodorus, and Adeimantus

1. Prepare for your part by carefully reading your role sheet in detail.
2. Keep a record of all of the trial proceedings on “papyrus rolls.”
3. Show your loyalty to Socrates by following him in a small group every time he enters and exits the classroom.



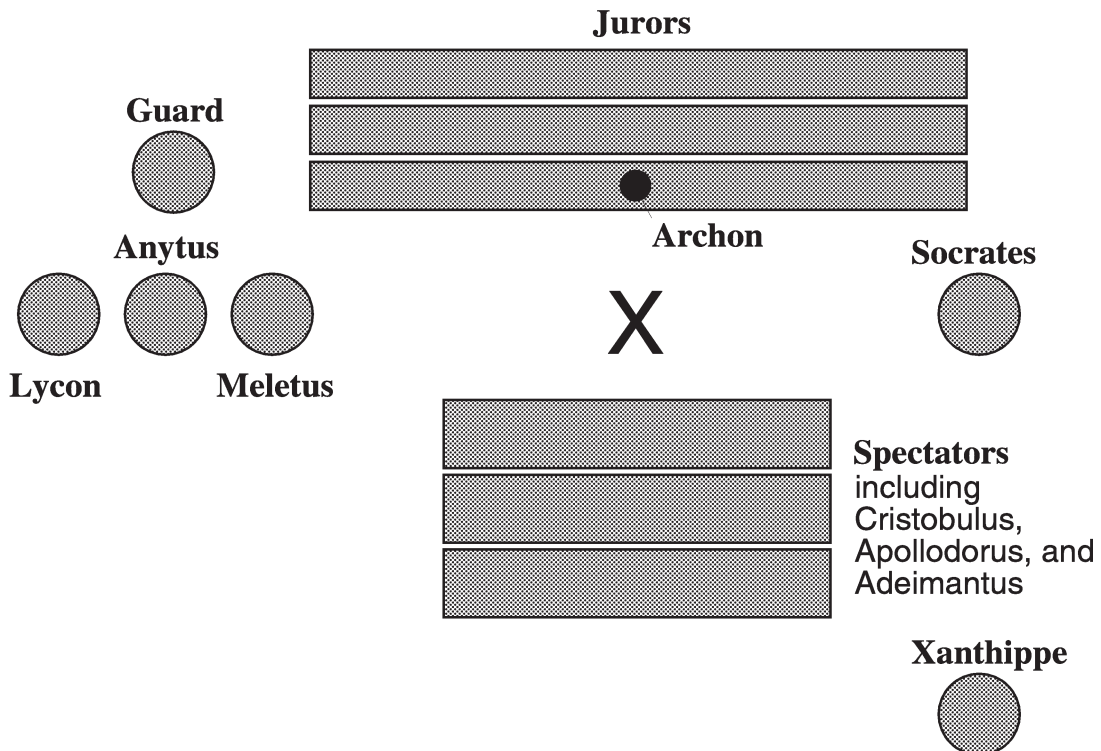
COURT PROCEDURE - 1

Directions: Action begins when Socrates and his three accusers enter the classroom and take their seats in the places specified (see suggested court arrangement below). Socrates should be followed into the room by Plato, Chaerephon, Cristobulus, Apollodorus, and Adeimantus. The archon waits until all persons are settled. The trial then begins:



Archon:
Keep order
at all times ...

1. **Archon:** O men of Athens! We are assembled here, jurors chosen by lot, to pass judgment on Socrates, a teacher and philosopher of this city. Socrates has been charged by three fellow citizens: Meletus, Anytus and Lycon. Meletus, please come forward and read the charges.
2. **Meletus:** Socrates is a public offender in that he does not recognize the gods that the state recognizes but introduces new supernatural beings; he has also offended by corrupting the youth. We demand that he be put to death for this wrongdoing.
3. **Archon:** You are charged, Socrates, son of Sophroniscus, with not worshipping the gods whom the state worships. You are further charged with corrupting the young. The death penalty has been demanded by your accusers. In accordance with the laws of this city established under the guidance of the great goddess Athena, you will have a right to hear the evidence presented against you. You further have a right to





COURT PROCEDURE - 2



Archon:
Keep order
at all times ...

cross-examine your accusers and to speak in your own behalf. May the mighty Zeus lend his wisdom to these proceedings. Meletus, you will begin by giving your argument to the jury.

4. **Meletus:** *(Details are provided on role sheet and JURORS handout.)*
5. **Archon:** The court has heard the oration of Meletus. Anytus, you may speak before the jury to give your argument against Socrates.
6. **Anytus:** *(Details are provided on role sheet and JURORS handout.)*
7. **Archon:** Anytus, you may be seated. The final accuser is Lycon, who may come forward and speak to this court.
8. **Lycon:** *(Details are provided on role sheet and JURORS handout.)*
9. **Archon:** The court has heard the oration of Lycon. In accordance with the laws of the state, it is time for the defense of Socrates to begin. **(Note: At this point Socrates' wife, Xanthippe, will attempt to speak in his behalf. Spectators, jurors, and the archon should express outrage at this breach of protocol, since Athenian law forbids women and slaves from being present at court. The archon should order the guard to remove Xanthippe, noting that a woman will not be allowed to disrupt the proceedings. Xanthippe should be escorted to a far corner of the room where she will spend the remainder of the time writing letters to relatives, weeping, and feeling powerless.)**
10. **Archon:** The court asks Socrates' pupil, Plato, to speak in his behalf.
11. **Plato:** *(Details are provided on role sheet and JURORS handout.)*
12. **Archon:** Plato, you may be seated. The court recognizes Chaerephon, who will speak on behalf of Socrates.
13. **Chaerephon:** *(Details are provided on role sheet and JURORS handout.)*
14. **Archon:** The court has heard the oration of Chaerephon. Socrates, it is now time for you to present your case before the jury.
15. **Socrates:** *(Details are provided on role sheet and JURORS handout.)*
16. **Archon:** Socrates, you may be seated. *(To the jurors)* It is now time to determine the fate of Socrates. In accordance with the laws of Athens, the jury will vote, first on whether Socrates is guilty as charged. If he is found innocent, he may live in this city as a free man. If the jury finds him guilty,



COURT PROCEDURE - 3

Socrates will have an opportunity to propose an alternate punishment. The jury would then vote on whether to put Socrates to death or to accept the alternate sentence proposed by the defendant. *(The archon will pass out paper ballots to each juror. The jurors will then mark their ballots **guilty** or **not guilty** and file by the archon, one by one, dropping the ballots into an urn.)*

17. **Archon:** *(After counting the ballots)* By authority vested in me, under the laws of Athens and the mighty gods of Olympus, I do hereby declare Socrates (guilty/innocent) of all charges. **(Note:** *If the verdict is not guilty, the archon should say, "Socrates, you are cleared of all charges and are free to take your place among the citizens of Athens."*) If the verdict is guilty, the following procedure should be followed.
18. **Archon:** Socrates, a jury of your peers has found you guilty. You must now address the court and propose a punishment to be used in place of the death penalty.
19. **Socrates:** **(Note:** *As specified on his role sheet. Socrates will reject the advice of his disciples to propose a fine or banishment from Athens. Instead, he will suggest that he be given free meals for the rest of his life at the Prytaneum, the city's seat of government, and a place of honor.*)
20. **Archon:** The jury will now vote on whether to put Socrates to death or to provide him with free meals at the Prytaneum. Remember, according to the laws of Athens, a jury cannot propose its own penalty. Therefore, each juror must vote for one punishment or the other.
21. **Archon:** *(If Socrates' alternate punishment is not accepted)* Socrates, you are sentenced to die by drinking the hemlock. You will be imprisoned until the ship which was sent to Delos returns to Athens. Since the vessel was sent on a sacred mission, capital punishment is forbidden by law until it returns. At that time the death sentence will be carried out. *(If Socrates' alternate punishment is accepted)* Socrates, you are hereby punished by eating free meals at the Prytaneum for the rest of your life. Court is adjourned.



And the memory of this philosopher's ideas was to reverberate through centuries of Western civilization ...



MELETUS

You are a poet of limited success who has joined Anytus and Lycon in bringing charges against Socrates.

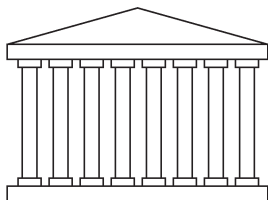
Your role will be to read the charges to the court and to give an oration before the jury in which you accuse Socrates of disobeying the gods of the city.

In the actual trial, Meletus went beyond the formal charges and accused Socrates of atheism. You should do the same. Keep in mind, however, that there were no laws against atheism in ancient Athens. Nevertheless, in your view, Socrates' religious beliefs constitute a threat to the polis.

You should make the following points when you speak:

1. Religion in Athens is a civic function. The city-state regulates religion through rites, temples, sacrifices, and festivals. The city-state also determines which gods it especially venerates. To attack those gods is to attack the polis itself.
2. Athens venerates two gods in particular: Hephaestus, the god of fire, and Athena, the goddess of wisdom. Hephaestus is the god of craftsmen, while Athena is the patron of the arts and crafts. Socrates has spoken with disdain for craftsmen and traders who play such a large part in the assembly and democratic institutions of Athens. In doing so he is expressing contempt for the gods of the city.

Keep in mind that Socrates has attended all of the required religious functions in Athens. You should also be aware that in the actual trial Socrates saved most of his rebuttal for you, Meletus; he largely ignored his other accusers. Consequently, as you address the court, you should be prepared for a similar rebuttal.



*Do not **read** your speech. Instead, write brief notes on a small note card and **speak** passionately. Using a note card will help you sound more spontaneous.*



Socrates' life and teaching have put a shadow over the importance of the gods in the lives of Athenians.

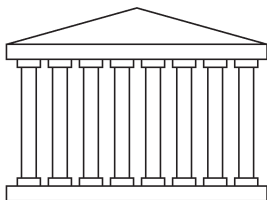


LOOK AT WHAT THIS MAN
HAS DONE TO MY SON!

As one of Socrates' accusers, you will give an oration that is designed to convince jurors that Socrates is a dangerous force in Athens. A well-to-do tanner and political leader, you should have considerable influence on your fellow citizens. Indeed, you were one of the generals who led the coalition of democrats who overthrew the Council of Thirty. You love Athens and have had first-hand experience with Socrates' influence on the young people of the city. One of his victims was your own son.

As you speak to the court you will make the following points:

1. During the rule of the Council of Thirty, you were sent into exile, along with thousands of citizens of Athens. Your son chose to remain in the city to study under Socrates. That was a tragic mistake. Socrates showed contempt for your line of work, saying that your son should not confine his education to hides. (Many Athenian aristocrats like Plato thought tanning was vulgar.) You found that offensive, especially in light of the poverty of Socrates' own family. Instead of recognizing that your son needed to learn by example, Socrates taught him to question. As a result, this young man frequently criticized Athenian institutions, he became confused, and he would not engage in any purposeful endeavor. *Your young son became a drunkard, and you hold Socrates responsible!*
2. What happened to your son is not an isolated example. Other pupils of Socrates have come to no good. Witness Critias and Charmides, leaders of the Council of Thirty, who were eventually put to death. Another example is Alcibiades, a brilliant, handsome, and spoiled youth who loved Socrates more than any other human being. Alcibiades' drunken revels with the lowest people of Athens became a scandal in the city. When he became a general, Alcibiades was rumored to have mutilated statues of the god Hermes. Later he was charged with mocking sacred religious rites known as the Eleusinian mysteries. He escaped but was tried *in absentia* and sentenced to death. He became a traitor, serving first with the Spartans and then with the Persians. Eventually, at age 46, he was assassinated by the Spartans.
3. You feel that if Socrates' teachings were beneficial, his students would not be such notable failures. In your mind, the only way to deal with this corrupting influence is to silence the old man *forever*.



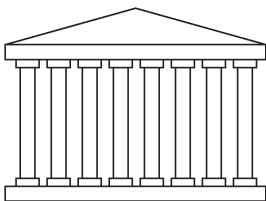
Do not **read** your speech. Instead, write brief notes on a small note card and **speak** passionately. Using a note card will help you sound more spontaneous.



You are a *rhetor*, the predecessor of a lawyer, and as such have considerable speaking ability. Your major function in addressing the court is to convince jurors that Socrates is a threat to Athenian democracy. In making your oration you will emphasize the following points:

Speak as forcefully and logically as you can. You must save Athens by destroying this man!

1. Socrates walks around Athens daily asking continual questions of its citizens. These are designed to tear down but never build. He rejects every answer but gives none of his own. In fact, after being asked for an answer, Socrates offers another question! The result of all of this is that he paralyzes thought, and he confuses and demoralizes our city's citizens. After suffering wartime losses and the tyranny of the Council of Thirty, Athens cannot tolerate more destructive acts.
2. Socrates is against democracy. He has publicly stated that Athens should be governed by those who have ability and knowledge, not by those chosen in a popularity contest. These authoritarian principles have no place in Athens.
3. Socrates thinks morality is found in the individual conscience rather than in social good or in the decrees of the gods. As a result, he undermines young people's respect for authority.
4. Anyone who destroys the city-state as Socrates is doing is undermining the whole fabric of civilization. The choice is clear: Either Athens or Socrates can survive. They cannot coexist.



*Do not **read** your speech. Instead, write brief notes on a small note card and **speak** passionately. Using a note card will help you sound more spontaneous.*



XANTHIPPE

As a woman in your early 40s, you are much younger than your 70-year-old husband, Socrates. You have three sons, two of whom are quite young. Widely viewed as a shrew who scolds your husband for neglecting his family, you nevertheless have reasons for occasionally lacking patience. During the course of your married life, Socrates has never held a paying job. He teaches in the marketplace and does not believe in accepting fees from his pupils. These actions have forced you and the children to live on a small inheritance left by Sophroniscus the stone-cutter, who was Socrates' father.

Worldly belongings and physical appearances have never been important to Socrates. He wears a ragged tunic and goes barefoot, and his features have been described as grotesque. He once thought about losing weight by dancing, but this seems to be an unlikely prospect. His curious waddling gait endears him to you and his followers, but many people in Athens mock him for the way he walks.

While appearing at this trial, you have one goal:

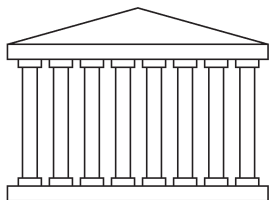
Socrates is a difficult man to live with, but he is your husband and you must fight to save him!

You want to persuade the jurors to release your husband to you so you can keep him at home and prevent him from making statements that will endanger his life.

Your mission will be a difficult one. Women and slaves are barred from Athenian courts. Still, you are willing to take a chance. You will sit on the sidelines until all of your husband's accusers have finished speaking. Then you will run forward, fall on your knees, and beg the court to let you take your husband home. Point out that this is a small request for a man who has only a few years of his natural life remaining.

If you are unsuccessful, you will be forced to remain on the sidelines, weeping at the prospect of losing Socrates and writing letters to relatives about what is going on at court.

One word of caution: *Don't expect much sympathy from Socrates' followers. Although they are concerned about your husband, they don't think women are very important.*



*Do not **read** your speech. Instead, write brief notes on a small note card and **speak** passionately. Using a note card will help you sound more spontaneous.*



PLATO



You believe Socrates' life and teachings have the beauty of a skillfully crafted Greek vase.

Therefore, you and other followers of Socrates feel deeply hurt when you see how he is being laughed at by his fellow Athenians as he takes daily walks through the city he loves.

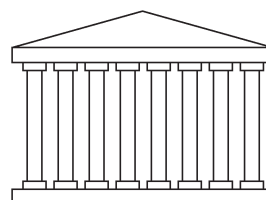


As Socrates' young pupil, you will give an oration in his behalf to convince the jury that he is innocent of all charges. Since the Socratic method is to ask questions rather than give speeches, this role is a bit uncomfortable for you. Nevertheless, you are willing to try to save the life of your master. You hope that Socrates' wife, Xanthippe, stays away from the court. A woman's feelings are of little regard to you or to your fellow citizens. Since women and slaves are forbidden at court, Xanthippe's presence could prejudice the jury against Socrates.

Your mission will be to underscore the following points as you speak:

1. Socrates' habit of asking many questions of his fellow citizens is not a threat to Athens. Rather, it is the teacher's way of leading people to the discovery of truth. His habit is to rise early and set out for the marketplace, the Lyceum, or the gymnasium—wherever men are gathered together. There he takes on the role of gadfly by questioning society's values and forcing people to think in ways they have never thought before.
2. According to Socrates, knowledge is the highest virtue. Without knowledge, right action is impossible. Socrates' work leads people to knowledge and right action, something Athens needs at this crucial time in her history.
3. Athenian democracy is dependent on free inquiry and free expression. To limit Socrates would be to destroy the best of what Athenian democracy has to offer.
4. Socrates should not be held responsible for all of the actions of his pupils. Anytus' son only pretended to be a serious pupil of Socrates during his father's absence from the city. In fact, the young man was drinking and living recklessly in a way that Socrates did not condone. The fault lies with the young man—not with his teacher.

A final note: To demonstrate your loyalty to your master, follow him when he enters and leaves the court. His other disciples—Chaerephon, Cristobulus, Apollodorus, and Adeimantus—will do the same.



*Do not **read** your speech. Instead, write brief notes on a small note card and **speak** passionately. Using a note card will help you sound more spontaneous.*



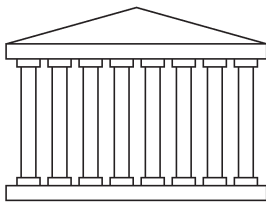
CHAEREPHON - 1

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ATHENS IF SHE
LOSES HER LEADING PHILOSOPHER?

As a man committed to Socrates, you plan to give an oration on his behalf in hopes of convincing the jurors of his innocence. In your speech you will make the following points:

1. As a follower of Socrates, you made a religious pilgrimage to the Temple of Delphi on the barren slopes of Mount Parnassus. The temple had been built in honor of the god Apollo. Your purpose was to ask the priestess of the oracle a question that had perplexed you: "Is anyone wiser than Socrates of Athens?" Even though the answer of the oracle is sometimes confusing to humans, the answer is always correct. This time the oracle's response left no room for doubt: "No one is wiser."
2. You hurried back to Athens to share the news with your fellow citizens. Eventually the message of the oracle came to the attention of Socrates. Although he would not dispute what the oracle said, he took the verdict with humility. His only claim to wisdom, he said, was that he admitted he knew nothing, whereas others pretended to know everything.
3. This caused some people to become Socrates' enemies. There were those who believed themselves to be much wiser than the son of a stone-cutter. Furthermore, they were incensed to think that Socrates' claims of ignorance would be considered wisdom. They began to watch him carefully, hoping to find something that could be used against him.
4. Socrates' enemies thought they had found such evidence when the philosopher was quoted as saying that what Athenian leadership needed was "knowledge and ability." Socrates kept emphasizing that good government resulted when leaders were both men of thought and men of action (when they were both philosophers and statesmen). Such statements were interpreted as favoring an oligarchy, the Council of Thirty, rather than the democratic government. Furthermore, Socrates also was overheard saying, "Of the gods we know nothing." Some people thought this indicated that he did not really respect the gods.
5. Socrates is also disliked by some because he asks incessant questions of everyone. In the play entitled *The Clouds*, which was widely attended in Athens, the poet Aristophanes ridiculed Socrates. The setting of the play was a "Thinking Shop," a school where Socrates taught people to prove anything, even if it was false. One of the lines in the play made reference to you as well as to your teacher:

"The master is busy
He is asking Chaerephon
How many times its length a flea can jump."



*Do not **read** your speech. Instead, write brief notes on a small note card and **speak** passionately. Using a note card will help you sound more spontaneous.*

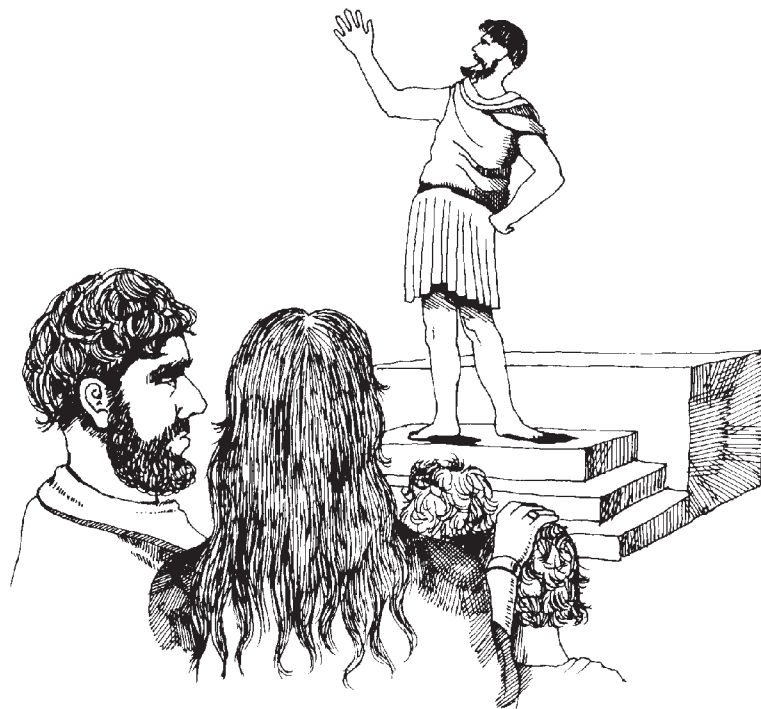


CHAEREPHON - 2

In your mind, the charges leveled at Socrates stem from jealousies and false characterizations. The charges that he is irreligious are nonsense. After all, the oracle singled him out as the wisest man in Athens.

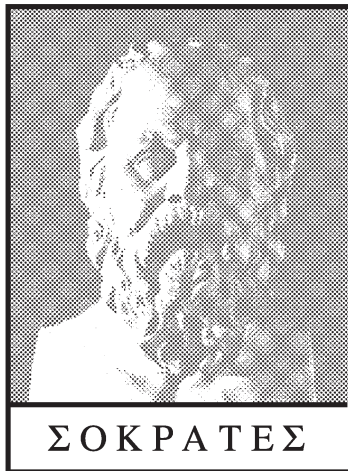
One final note: To demonstrate your loyalty to your master, follow him when he enters and leaves the court. His other disciples (Plato, Cristobulus, Apollodorus, and Adeimantus) will do the same.

You must gather yourself to speak as eloquently as you can to save Athens by saving Socrates!





SOCRATES - 1

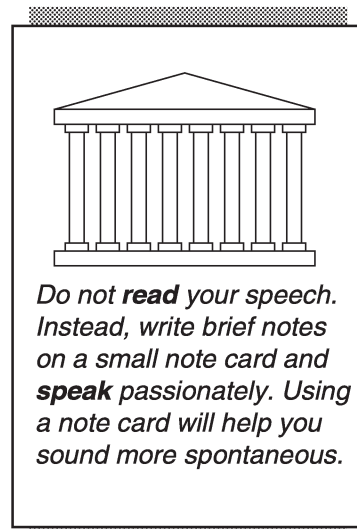


You should begin your oration by saying, “O men of Athens, I cannot tell how you have been affected by my accusers, but I know they almost made me forget who I was—so persuasively did they speak ... And yet they have hardly uttered a word of truth at all, but from me you shall hear the whole truth.”

You should make the following points as you speak:

1. You are more than 70 years old and are unaccustomed to giving long speeches.
2. You have never disputed the existence of gods. The charge of atheism voiced by Meletus is only there because he has no basis on which to accuse you. The fact is, you are ordered by god to fulfill a philosopher’s mission: to cause men to search into themselves for truth. In asking questions of your fellow Athenians, you are doing god’s work.
3. You have no concern for wealth. That is why you wear the same ragged tunic and go barefoot. You accept no money for teaching. Your only concern is to find truth and to help your students find it. Unfortunately, Alcibiades made you ashamed. (Make this comment in reference to accusations made by Anytus.)
4. The charges that have been brought against you are the result of rumors that Athenians have heard since they were children. You cannot even give the names of all the sources of the rumors except that of a well-known comic poet (Aristophanes, author of *The Clouds*.)
5. You refuse to be silenced. You will continue to ask questions, playing the role of gadfly.

Conclude your oration with the following statement: “And now, Athenians, I am not going to argue for my own sake, as you may think, but for yours, that you may not sin against god by condemning me, who am his gift to you.”



Here are some other observations which will help you in your testimony.

- You have the right to cross-examine your accusers by asking them questions and disputing what they say.
- In the actual trial Socrates focused almost entirely on Meletus, the poet.
- It is important that you tell the truth throughout the trial. The fact is that you are not an admirer of democracy. Neither are you in favor of tyranny. You favor an aristocracy in which office would be restricted to those who were mentally fit and trained for it. The jury does not share this view.

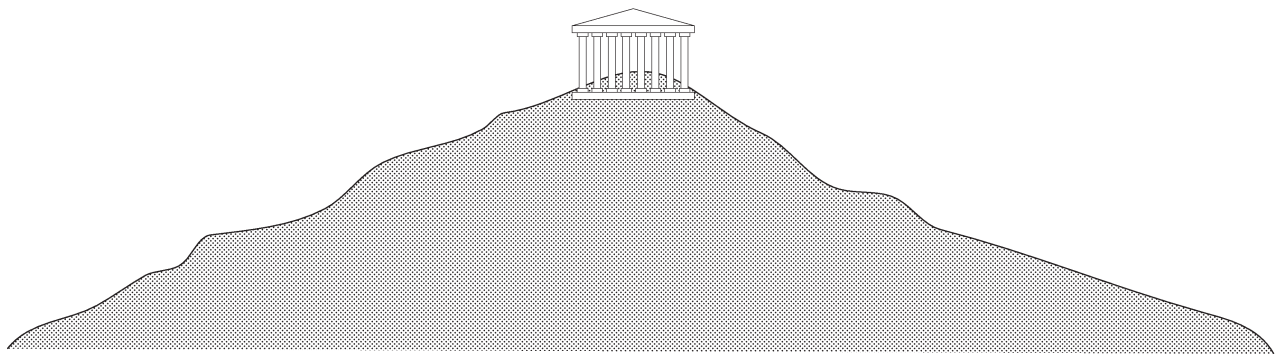


SOCRATES - 2



*Here Socrates is defending himself before his judges
from a relief by Antonio Canova*

If the jurors find you guilty, they will vote a second time to determine your punishment. Your accusers have asked for the death penalty. You will be given an opportunity to propose an alternate punishment. In this instance, you should reject your supporters' advice to ask for a fine or banishment from Athens. Instead, you will ask that you be given free meals for the rest of your life at the Prytaneum, the city's seat of government and a place of honor.



*To leave Athens would tear out your heart, but you must remain loyal to your credo:
"THE UNEXAMINED LIFE IS NOT WORTH LIVING."*



CRISTOBULUS, APOLLODORUS, AND ADEIMANTUS

To “age” paper, try the following:

1. Choose a heavy weight paper of good quality.
2. Print your words in a quality black ink.
3. Iron it with an iron on low until the paper begins to “age” (i.e., until it begins to turn a light yellow).

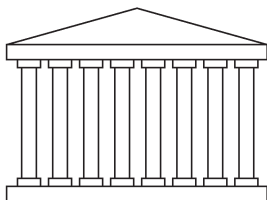
You are three followers of Socrates who hope to see him found innocent of all charges. Your duty will be to record the proceedings of the court on rolls of papyrus, the forerunner to modern paper. Try to find paper that can be given an “aged” appearance to simulate papyrus. For greater authenticity, consult the “alphabet” listing in your encyclopedia, and use some Greek letters in your text. Your task is important, since Socrates did not write down his ideas. You will preserve his thoughts, as well as this historic trial, for posterity.

Since you want to demonstrate loyalty for your teacher, follow him when he enters and leaves the court. Plato and Chaerephon will do the same. Don’t give Socrates’ wife, Xanthippe, much sympathy. As far as you are concerned, women tend to be emotional, and their feelings are not worth consideration.

Here is the Greek alphabet as printed by hand.

THE GREEK ALPHABET

Α	<i>alpha</i>	Ν	<i>nu</i>
Β	<i>beta</i>	Ξ	<i>xi</i>
Γ	<i>gamma</i>	Ο	<i>omicron</i>
Δ	<i>delta</i>	Π	<i>pi</i>
Ε	<i>epsilon</i>	Ρ	<i>rho</i>
Ζ	<i>zeta</i>	Σ	<i>sigma</i>
Η	<i>eta</i>	Τ	<i>tau</i>
Θ	<i>theta</i>	Υ	<i>upsilon</i>
Ι	<i>iota</i>	Φ	<i>phi</i>
Κ	<i>kappa</i>	Χ	<i>chi khi</i>
Λ	<i>lambda</i>	Ψ	<i>psi</i>
Μ	<i>mu</i>	Ω	<i>omega</i>



Do not **read** your speech. Instead, write brief notes on a small note card and **speak** passionately. Using a note card will help you sound more spontaneous.



JURORS - 1

BE TRUE ATHENIANS:
SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH!

You have **five responsibilities**:

1. You must listen intently.
2. You alone are responsible for weighing evidence.
3. You will do a better job of weighing evidence if you write thorough notes in a Reaction Journal such as is described and pictured on page 35.
4. You must question each witness who appears before you. (Use the questions listed below as a starting point. Then think up additional questions on your own.)
5. Decide whether Socrates is guilty or innocent.

Here are questions that will start you asking questions of the persons who will appear during the trial. **Important:** *Divide these "first" questions among yourselves before the trial begins.*

Ask of Meletus

- If Socrates were an atheist, why did he attend religious festivals?
- Greeks believe in many gods. What standard would you use to determine whether a particular god was receiving enough attention?

Ask of Anytus

- Why isn't your son responsible for his own actions?
- If you could not alter your son's behavior, why do you think that his teacher could change his life?
- Isn't it possible that your son's behavior was not condoned by Socrates?

Ask of Lycon

- Wouldn't the denial of free speech be more dangerous to democracy than Socrates' questions?
- Isn't it rather harsh to put someone to death for advocating a different system of government?

Ask of Plato

- If Socrates' influence is beneficial, how do you account for the failures of his students?
- Doesn't a teacher have a responsibility to provide some answers rather than simply asking questions?



JURORS - 2

Ask of Chaerephon

- Isn't it possible that the oracle was implying that all Athenians were equal? To suggest that "none was wiser" than Socrates does not necessarily mean that he was the wisest.
- If Socrates really knows nothing, why do you spend time studying under him?

Ask of Socrates

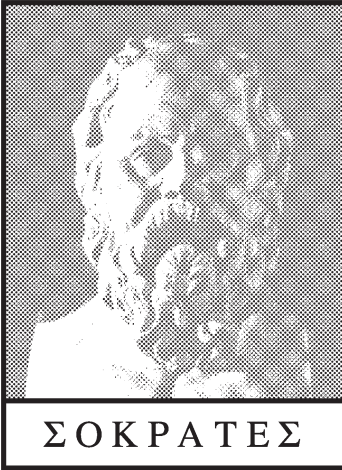
- How can you claim to lead people to the truth when by your own admission you know nothing?
- Which is more important—your right to ask questions or Athens' right to survive as a democracy?

Suggested note-taking process for your Reaction Journals

Reactions/Character	Witnesses
<p>Place two kinds of information on this page:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Questions you wish to ask the witness if you have time to do so ... If you do not, possibly you can bring up your concerns if your jury meets to deliberate.2. Reactions to the character of the witness ... The great Greek philosopher Aristotle said human beings persuade others by relying on three things: <i>logos</i> (the logic of their argument); <i>pathos</i> (the emotions they radiate); and <i>ethos</i> (the personal character they project to listeners). Ask yourself, "Does this speaker seem to have an honorable character?"	<p>On this right hand side of your open notebook pages, write down the main points each witness presents.</p> <p>Try to be as accurate as you can while you write down what is said.</p> <p>During moments when you suddenly doubt or wonder about what the witness is saying, then write a question on the page at the left.</p>



EPILOGUE



Here are some interesting observations about what happened after the trial:

1. The actual trial resulted in a 280 to 220 vote in favor of Socrates' conviction.
2. In the sentencing that followed, the accusers asked for death.
3. Socrates rejected his followers' recommendation that he ask for a fine as an alternate punishment. Instead, he requested the jury to declare him a civic hero and provide free meals for the rest of his life at the Prytaneum.
4. Socrates was given the death penalty. He spent a month chained in a prison cell conversing with his disciples and awaiting the return of the ship from Delos. (It was sent on a sacred mission, and capital punishment was forbidden during its absence.)
5. Socrates was forced to die by drinking the hemlock.
6. After his death, Athenians regretted their decision and killed his accusers.
 - One source says Meletus died by public stoning.
 - Another source gives a varied account: the accusers became so unpopular that no citizen would light their fires, answer their questions, or bathe in the same water with them. In the end they became desperate and hanged themselves. We do not know if these stories are true.
7. The best account of Socrates' trial survives in the writings of his student, Plato.

*The Death of Socrates by Jacques Louis David
The Metropolitan Museum of Art*

