

Test every assumption before you build on it.

Background

Socrates - adapted by Paul & Elder

The Socratic Method isn't about having the right answer — it's about exposing the unexamined assumptions underneath a position. This canvas gives you six question types to stress-test any idea, strategy, or belief.

How to Run This

- 1 State the belief or claim you want to test at the top.
- 2 Work through each question type in order — don't skip any.
- 3 Pay most attention to questions you resist. Resistance signals a real assumption.
- 4 Note where you can't answer — those are your blind spots and experiment list.
- 5 Revise your original claim based on what survived scrutiny.

Facilitator Tips

Common mistake

Using this tool to confirm what you already believe. If every question gets an easy answer, you're not pushing hard enough.

What good looks like

At least two assumptions you can't fully justify. Those are your experiment list.

When to move on

When you've stress-tested the core claim and identified which assumptions are load-bearing.

About Wade Institute

Wade Institute of Entrepreneurship is Australia's leading centre for entrepreneurial education, based at the University of Melbourne. The Studio is Wade's free, AI-powered innovation workshop platform — making 24 structured frameworks available to anyone, each one facilitated by Pete, an AI coach trained in Wade's methodology.

Try this interactively in The Studio

Pete will guide you through the six question types — asking the follow-up questions that expose the assumptions you haven't examined. You'll leave with a cleaner claim and a session report.

studio.wadeinstitute.org.au →

1 THE CLAIM

State the belief, assumption, or assertion you want to examine.

2 CLARIFYING QUESTIONS

What do you mean by...? Can you give an example?

3 PROBING ASSUMPTIONS

What are you assuming? Why do you believe that?

4 PROBING EVIDENCE

What evidence supports this? How do you know?

5 ALTERNATIVE VIEWPOINTS

What would someone who disagrees say?

6 IMPLICATIONS & CONSEQUENCES

If this is true, what follows? What are the consequences?

7 REVISED POSITION

After questioning, what do you now believe? What changed?