W.E.B. DuBois and Socratic Questioning

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Abstract

Taking its cue from W.E.B. DuBois’s reference to Socrates in The Souls of Black Folk, the essay investigates points of contact and contrast between DuBois and Socrates on the relationship of philosophy to politics and particularly on the nature of liberal education. The hope is that the comparison will contribute in some small measure to a re-assessment of these two thinkers and of the nature of education.
Socratic questioning seeks to get the other person to answer their own questions by making them think and drawing out the answer from them. Here are the six types of questions that Socrates asked his pupils. Probably often to their initial annoyance but more often to their ultimate delight. He was a man of remarkable integrity and his story makes for marvelous reading. The overall purpose of Socratic questioning, is to challenge accuracy and completeness of thinking in a way that acts to move people towards their ultimate goal. Conceptual clarification questions. Get them to think more about what exactly they are asking or thinking about. Prove the concepts behind their argument. Use basic "tell me more" questions that get them to think more about what exactly they are asking or thinking about. Prove the concepts behind their argument. Use basic "tell me more" questions that g Socratic questioning (or Socratic maieutics) was named after Socrates, who was a philosopher in c. 470 BCE–c. 399 BCE. Socrates utilized an educational method that focused on discovering answers by asking questions from his students. Socrates believed that "the disciplined practice of thoughtful questioning enables the scholar/student to examine ideas and be able to determine the validity of those ideas". Plato, a student of Socrates, described this rigorous method of teaching to explain that the 4 Defining Socratic Questioning: Socratic questioning is disciplined questioning that can be used to explore thought in many directions and for many purposes, 5 to explore complex ideas to get to the truth of things to open up issues and problems to uncover assumptions to analyze concepts to distinguish what we know from what we don’t know, and to follow out logical implications of thought. 6 The key to distinguishing Socratic questioning from questioning per se is that Socratic question is always systematic and deep, focusing on complex concepts, principles, theories, issues or problems. It m

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