

EDUCATION

Socrates

Dialogue with a philosopher. The conversational avatar presented at the Festival del Classico, on a knowledge base built from the sources, now available for classrooms and universities.

He will not give you the answer. He will ask you why.

Socrates is a conversational avatar developed at e-REAL Labs and presented at Politecnico di Torino during the Festival del Classico. Students talk directly with the philosopher: his questions bring out assumptions, alternatives, and the reasons behind one's ideas. His content rests on a secure knowledge base curated and controlled by Centro Studi Logos with the Festival's Scientific Committee, built from source texts on Socrates, his trial, and ancient Greek law. The avatar does not quote the texts: it knows them, and plays its part.

15
SOURCE TEXTS BEHIND THE CHARACTER

0
ANSWERS GIVEN: ONLY QUESTIONS

40+
LANGUAGES

THE PROBLEMS WE SOLVE FOR SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES, AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

01 — PHILOSOPHY AS A LIST OF DOCTRINES

Students memorize what Socrates said instead of doing what he did

Dialogue is the method. Meeting the character, students experience questioning first hand: defining a term, finding a counterexample, following a consequence, changing their mind.

02 — THE SOURCE NOBODY READS

The Apology and the dialogues stay on the shelf

Socrates sends students back to the texts. Teachers use the dialogue to check what he said against what the sources say, and to separate reconstruction from documentation.

03 — A LESSON THAT DOES NOT TRAVEL

Philosophy, law, history, and rhetoric taught in separate rooms

The trial of Socrates brings them together: the accusation, the defense, the laws of Athens, the vote. Students of philosophy and of law prepare and stage it with the avatar's help, as at the Festival del Classico.

FOR WHOM

Licei and secondary schools; philosophy, classics, law, and humanities departments at universities; festivals, libraries, museums, and cultural institutions with educational programs; teacher-training programs.

FORMAT

Online, in the classroom, on totems and projected walls, or in immersive rooms; no headsets. Italian and other languages. From a single dialogue to a full activity with the staged trial; objectives, texts, and mediation designed with the teachers. Knowledge base and boundaries reviewed with the institution before use.



INSIDE THE SOLUTION

What do you mean? On what basis? What follows?

01 Prepare the encounter

Theme and texts the class is studying: the Apology, the dialogues, the trial, justice and the laws. Teachers set objectives and the place of the dialogue in the lesson.

02 Talk with Socrates

Students ask in natural language, on their own device or in front of the class. Socrates answers with questions; assumptions and alternatives come out.

03 Return to the texts

Teachers guide source checking and separate reconstruction from documentation. Quality of questions, link between answer and source, comparison of perspectives, awareness of limits.

04 Stage the trial

Students prepare accusation and defense with the avatar's help, then stage the trial of Socrates in class or on stage, as at the Festival del Classico.

WHAT YOU GET

A curated Socrates
A knowledge base from the sources, reviewed by scholars.

The Socratic method, live
Questions, not answers, in the student's language.

A path to the trial
From dialogue to staging, with teaching materials.

Teacher tools
Questions asked and points to bring to class.

Start with one class

Choose one class studying Socrates, Plato, or the trial. Share the texts on the syllabus. We set up the encounter with the teacher, the class dialogues with Socrates for a few weeks, and, if you wish, prepares and stages the trial. Then we look together at the questions asked and at how students read the sources.

BORN AT THE FESTIVAL DEL CLASSICO

Socrates was designed and curated by e-REAL Labs and Centro Studi Logos for the Festival del Classico in Turin, where the audience met him on stage and students prepared the trial of Socrates with his help.

PART OF THE EDUCATION OFFER

One of the five e-REAL Education solutions, with Conversations with People and Ideas, Conversational Mentors, Learning Journeys and Classroom Feedback, and Immersive and Interactive Labs. Other figures can be built the same way.

LET'S TALK

Book a demo on www.e-real.net or propose a class for a pilot.

CONTACT

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Illustration: the trial of Socrates staged by students.

FESTIVAL DEL CLASSICO

FESTIVAL DEL CLASSICO 2026

This year Socrates stands trial.

For the second year at the Festival del Classico, at the Circolo dei lettori in Turin. Students prepare with the avatar, then put him on trial.

First they prepare with him. Then they bring the trial of 399 BC to life.

2nd
YEAR AT THE FESTIVAL DEL CLASSICO

1
MORNING: PREPARATION AND TRIAL

399 BC
THE TRIAL STAGED BY STUDENTS

After its debut in December 2025 at Politecnico di Torino, the avatar returns to the Festival in December, at the Circolo dei lettori. In one morning, students from a liceo classico and students of ancient Greek law from the University of Turin's School of Law meet Socrates twice: first they test questions, interpretations, and arguments with him; then classics and law students, philosophy and Attic procedure, stage the trial. In both moments the avatar plays himself.

FESTIVAL DEL CLASSICO

2006 2026 FONDAZIONE CIRCOLO DEI LETTORI

THE FESTIVAL AND ITS HOST

Italy's leading event on the dialogue between ancient thought and the present

The Festival del Classico is curated by Ugo Cardinale and chaired by Luciano Canfora. It is promoted and hosted in Turin by the Fondazione Circolo dei lettori, which turns twenty in 2026 and dedicates its 2026/2027 season to the theme "Natural Intelligence." Socrates is the contribution of e-REAL Labs, sponsor of the Festival through Logosnet: it is offered free of charge and, new this year, students who win selected challenges take up an internship at e-REAL Labs.

> "Humanistic culture and scientific culture are not two separate worlds but parts of one and the same culture. An avatar of Socrates questioning students is a concrete example."
>
> Ugo Cardinale, curator of the Festival del Classico



The vote, as in Athens: illustration.

THE 2026 EDITION AT A GLANCE

Where
Circolo dei lettori, Turin

When
December 9–13, 2026; Socrates in one morning

Who takes part
Liceo classico students and students of ancient Greek law (University of Turin)

The precedent
December 2025, Politecnico di Torino: "A dialogue with Socrates: avatar of thought"

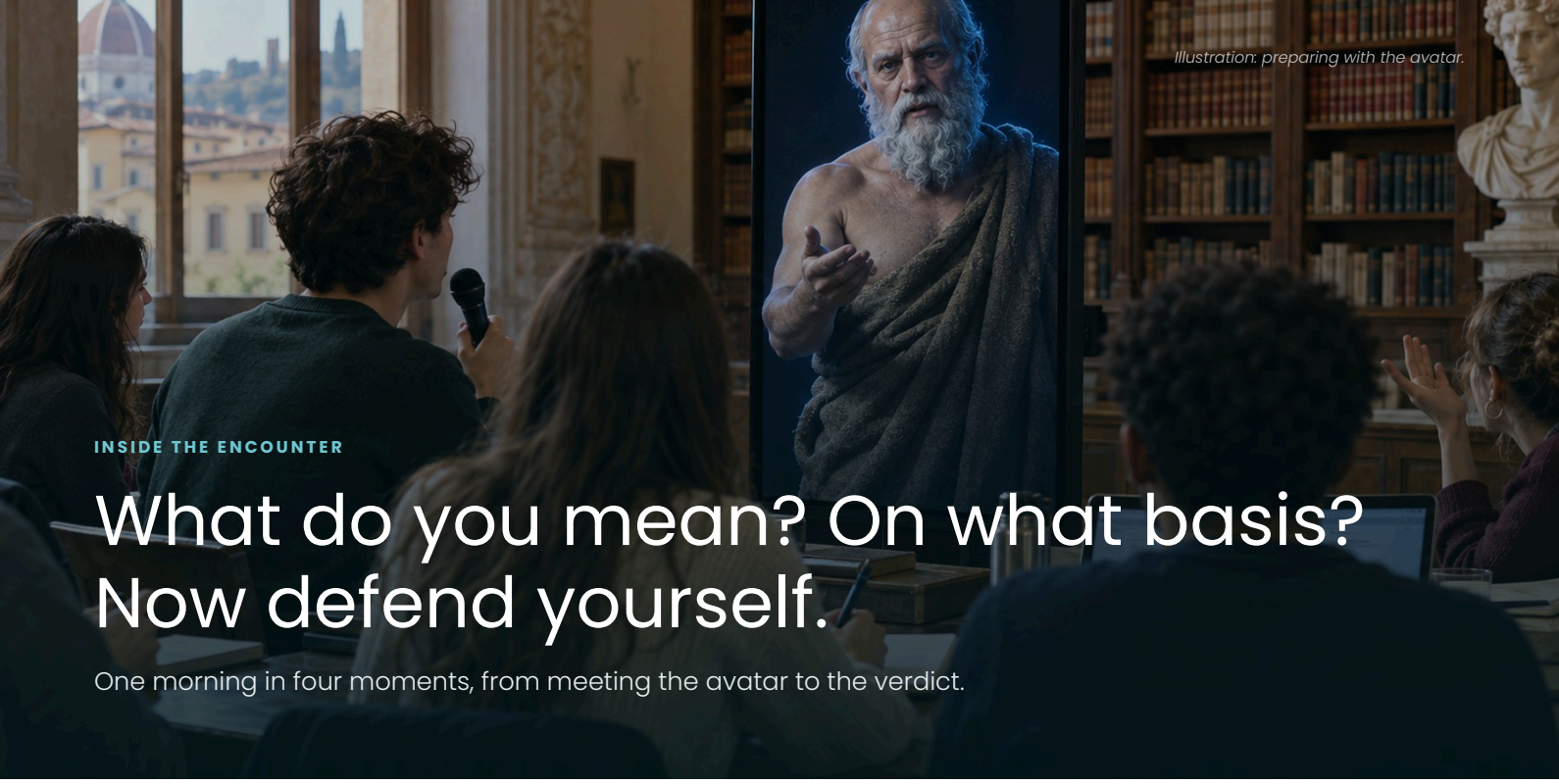


Illustration: preparing with the avatar.

INSIDE THE ENCOUNTER

What do you mean? On what basis? Now defend yourself.

One morning in four moments, from meeting the avatar to the verdict.

01

Meeting Socrates

Students talk with the avatar and test questions, interpretations, and arguments. Socrates answers with questions: assumptions, alternatives, and reasons come out.

02

Accusation and defense

Classics and law students work together on the same case: philosophy and Attic procedure, the accusation, the defense, the laws of Athens.

03

The trial

The trial of 399 BC staged by the students, with the avatar in the dock playing himself.

04

The internship

Students who win selected challenges take up an internship at e-REAL Labs.

HOW SOCRATES REASONS

Questions instead of answers

He gives no direct answer to what the interlocutor can work out alone: he returns a question, or a sequence of questions, that leads them to formulate their thinking more precisely.

Attention to the person in front of him

He detects signs of frustration, disengagement, or premature satisfaction and adjusts the tone of his questions accordingly.

Reflection on the reasoning

At intervals he invites reflection on the path taken: "Why did you ask that question?" counts as much as "What answer did you get?"

SOCRATIC PROMPTING

The idea behind the avatar

A method for questioning one's own premises before and during the use of generative AI, developed by Fernando Salvetti and Barbara Bertagni under the scientific supervision of Roberto Pieraccini, former Head of Engineering of the Google AI Assistant. Four levels of competence: clarification, contextualization, problematization, reflective evaluation.

WHO BUILDS IT

A mixed team from e-REAL Labs and Centro Studi Logos, both part of Logosnet: psychologists, philosophers, anthropologists, educators, sociologists, and legal scholars define the character, the dialogue, and the knowledge base; engineers and programmers develop the architecture that brings them to life. A life-size avatar, on a totem or a wall, no headsets: it listens and answers by voice in real time.



Socrates in the dock: illustration.

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