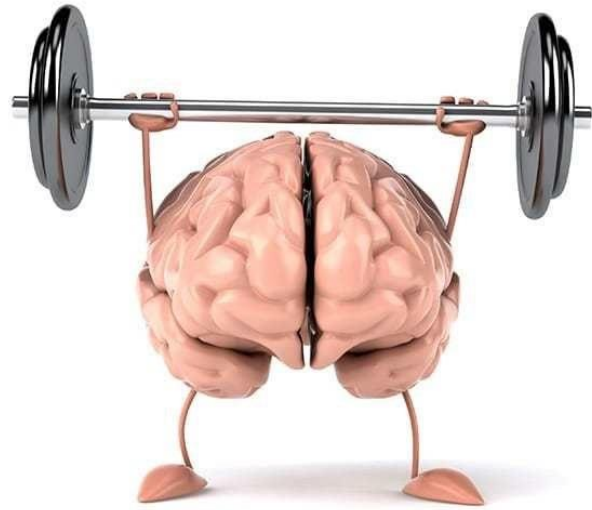


# Student Seminars

## Socratic Solutions Australasia

**BUILD  
YOUR  
MIND  
WITH  
CRITICAL  
THINKING**



SOCRATIC SOLUTIONS AUSTRALASIA

ABN 60 815 416 354

### Friday 27th July – ACU Veritas Building

Over recent years, there has been a great deal of exciting work done to help our students develop skills in critical and collaborative thinking. Skills in communication, collaboration and creativity are developed within Philosophical Communities of Inquiry. There is a great deal of evidence that suggests that participating students improve academically in science, literacy, music and social interactions. This seminar is designed to help students designed to answer the following questions:

- What does good thinking look like and how can students analyse an argument well?
- How can I improve skills and confidence in group discussions?
- What does collaboration look like in the context of a philosophical community of inquiry?
- What is a Philosothon and how can this improve thinking skills?
- What training is necessary to compete in an Ethics Bowl and what might best practice look like?

The seminar will be particularly useful for gifted and talented students and students seeking to develop skills in critical thinking, creative thinking and collaborative thinking.



Matthew Wills was until last year the Head of Philosophy, Values and Religion at Hale School in Western Australia. He has worked in excellent independent schools in NSW, SA and WA. Until 2007 he was the Chief Executive Officer for DAN, a network of over 450 Australasian schools and universities. In 2009 he was awarded the Winston Churchill Fellowship and an Australia Award in 2013 from the federal government for excellence in teaching. He is an executive member of the WA Association of Philosophy in Schools. He has completed level 1 and level 2 training in P4C and has been instrumental in the successful introduction and growth of various popular initiatives to promote Philosophy and Ethics for senior students including Philosothons and Ethics Olympiads. In 2015 he was awarded the Outstanding Professional Service Award from the Professional Teaching Council of Western Australia. In 2017 his application for funding from the Templeton Foundation was successful and he is currently managing the Philosothon Project. He is married with two children.



**COACTEA**  
The Council of the ACT Education Associations

#### Feedback:

“Lots of good ideas that can be adapted to our situation - mind bending”

“Very hands on and incredibly interesting”

“A good variety of ideas and this stimulated my own thinking”

“Biggest plus was being led by someone who is passionate and knowledgeable about Philosophy”

“Very worthwhile”

Please book online, post or email this registration form to; Socratic Solutions Australasia  
PO BOX 116 Dernancourt 5075  
Email: [philosothon@yahoo.com](mailto:philosothon@yahoo.com)  
(ABN 60 815 416 354)

For staff and Student Registration go to:  
[socraticolutions.education/StudentSeminarCanberra.html](http://socraticolutions.education/StudentSeminarCanberra.html)

## ***Program***

9.30-10.15am **Critical Thinking Skills**- Research suggests that a more in-depth focus on enhancing critical thinking skills in K-12 can add academic rigor and increase the scores on standardized assessments. This session will provide each participating students with skills in how to analyze and evaluate arguments.

10.15-10.45am What is a **Philosophical Community of Inquiry** and how to participate applying best practice. By utilizing activities to enhance critical thinking, students are better able to understand why something has occurred as opposed to just understanding what has occurred. This session will provide students with skills and insights into best practice in philosophical discourse.

Recess 10.45am -11am -Morning Break Recess

11am-12.45am **Philosothons** give students an ideal opportunity to participate in a Philosophical Community of Inquiry - Collaborative philosophical inquiry is a pedagogy which—the research literature shows—brings improved reading, writing, maths, science and problem-solving skills. In addition, it brings important social benefits. Students will participate in a COI and have the opportunity to reflect on their experience with a view towards improving results.

12.45-1.30pm Lunch

1.30-2.30pm **Ethics Olympiads**- The mention of Olympic rivalry probably conjures up images of battles on a ski run or on the athletics track. But an Ethics Olympiad is a very different experience. It requires excellence in communication skills and ethical understanding rather than physical strength or co-ordination. It is a different sort of strength, a strength of character and a different sort of co-ordination involving collaboration and the forming of a well-reasoned arguments. It's a unique opportunity for schools to engage their students in interesting ethical discussions with other students who come from different parts of the country and the world. In this session students will present their cases in a collaborative forum.

### **Arrival and Registration**

Registration is 9.00am for a 9.30am start and finish at 2.30pm. Students must bring their own morning tea and lunch (a water bottle is also recommended). Morning tea and lunch is provided for accompanying teachers.

#### **Tuition Fees:**

Students: \$20.00 early bird if paid in full four weeks prior to conference.

Full fee \$25.00

Teachers: One free staff place is available for every 12 students. Another free place will be provided where a teacher can facilitate a COI. Extra free staff places are available if more than 12 accompanying students. If less, then extra teachers will be charged at student rate; i.e. \$30 Tuition fee includes morning tea and lunch for staff. Students must bring their own refreshments and lunch.

These conferences are very popular, with numbers increasing each year, so we recommend early booking. Cancellations and changes to bookings are accepted up to three weeks prior to conference without penalty, after which an administration fee will be charged.

### **BOOKING PLACES AT A CONFERENCE**

Please note that we cannot accept bookings for unaccompanied students, and all students attending are required to have a supervising teacher, or parent, with them. This is a workplace health and safety issue, as we do not have the necessary staff to provide supervision of students at the conference, or during meal breaks. [If a school is not attending, and a student from that school wishes to attend independently, they can do so, but they must be accompanied by a supervising adult who is charged at the student rate, and who makes the booking

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