

Name _____

Debating Socratic Wisdom Answer Key

(Responses will vary, but here is guidance for teachers.)

Sample Responses

1. **Agree** - Recognizing one's ignorance prevents arrogance and keeps the pursuit of learning alive.
Disagree - Knowing little cannot be true wisdom; actual knowledge is required.
2. **Strength** - Leaders gain credibility when they admit limits and seek advice.
Weakness - It may undermine authority if leaders admit ignorance too often.
3. **Helpful** - By questioning others, Socrates pushed Athens to think critically and seek truth.
Harmful - He embarrassed influential figures, creating hostility and division.
4. **Yes** - True wisdom comes from valuing truth more than personal gain or survival.
No - Popularity and safety matter; constant questioning can destabilize society.

Sample Debate Statements

- **For Socrates' View:** Socrates was wiser than others because he admitted his **ignorance** and sought **truth**. Unlike the poets and politicians, he did not pretend to know what he did not. This humility is the foundation of **wisdom**. His questioning helped uncover false beliefs, which is a form of **virtue**. Therefore, Socrates' wisdom was genuine and unique.
- **Against Socrates' View:** Claiming to be wiser than others can seem arrogant, even if it is based on awareness of **ignorance**. Wisdom should involve both **truth** and practical knowledge. Socrates risked alienating people with his constant challenges. A truly wise person might use more **rhetoric** and diplomacy to achieve **justice** while still promoting reflection.