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**Gadflies in our society – a blessing or a curse?**

The creative project is a website which represents a gadfly. It depicts the idea that there are some people in our society who act like gadflies by asking uneasy questions which disturb our beliefs and question our wisdom. Their questions make us feel irritated and annoyed that we rather wish to execute them.

The inspiration has been taken from Socrates who acted as a gadfly in ancient Athens. Socrates states that he is “… attached by the god to the city as if to a horse that, while it’s large and of good stock, nevertheless is rather sluggish because of its size and needing waking up by some horsefly; just as such, it seems to me, the god has attached me to the city – the kind of person who wakes you up, ...” (Apology, 157, Plato). Thus, he acted like a horsefly all his life, and this became the reason for his execution.

However, there are also some people who respect the presence of gadflies – just like Crito – who remained a very good friend of Socrates until the end. When Socrates was declared to be executed by the jury, he tried to convince Socrates to escape as he knew that jury is acting unjustly. However, Socrates instead explains to Crito that “… we shouldn’t act unjustly in retaliation or do harm to any human being at all, no matter how we’re being maltreated by them.” (Crito, 243, Plato). Thus, people like Socrates who are wise and do good for the society cannot act unjustly.

I want the user to learn that one can claim that they know about a certain topic, but when one is cross questioned to go in depth of the topic one claims to know, it is proven that one does not know anything. This is the reasoning that Socrates used to explain why he thinks he is wise – “At least it seems I’m wiser than this man in just one minor respect, that I don’t even think that I know what I don’t know” (Apology, 123, Plato).

I did this project so that a user comes to know about his/her real identity. Either the user will end up knowing that they know nothing if they kept answering the questions, or the user will swat the fly and would know about themselves that they are just like any other ignorant citizen who want to execute such flies that cause unease by asking difficult questions about our beliefs.

Thus, this project is very helpful to unveil the truth about one’s own beliefs. After using the website, a user should be able to spot more gadflies in our system. The user would also be enlightened to question the current political system and societal rules.

Link to the website - <http://mylinux.langara.bc.ca/~tgrewal/Project/>

**Bibliography:**

1. “Apology, by Plato.” *Plato’s Apology*, 2017, [www.loebclassics.com/view/plato\_philosopher-apology/2017/pb\_LCL036.107.xml](http://www.loebclassics.com/view/plato_philosopher-apology/2017/pb_LCL036.107.xml).
2. “The Crito, by Plato.” *Plato’s The Crito*, 2017, www.loebclassics.com/view/plato\_philosopher-crito/2017/pb\_LCL036.215.xml.