

# How To Think

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## 1 Intro

This was inspired by reading Bryan Magee's *The Great Philosophers*, chapter one .<sup>1</sup> In the discussion of Socrates and Plato, Miles Burnyeat notes that Socrates was condemned and killed for corrupting the young, while he was known publicly for being a great teacher of the youth. In another place, Burnyeat notes that one of the critical emphases of Socrates' teachings is to think for oneself, indicated by the famous "Socratic Method". I think it's significant that some of the most important philosophers emphasized *how* to think over what to think. The value of Socrates' core teachings was the importance of understanding how to think and the limits of thought or philosophy.

## 2 Foundations of Philosophy

The primary utility is to recognize the weaknesses of unconsidered thoughts, to teach one how to think, and to build skills and awareness toward careful thought. One who has successfully engaged with philosophy is not one who has learned the dialogs or treatises or logical tricks, but one who is aware of the shallowness of careless thought, is careful in thinking, and knows how to direct questions or inquiry to get to the heart of an issue.

## References

- (1) Magee, B., *The great philosophers: an introduction to Western philosophy*; Oxford University Press: Oxford ; New York, 2000.