**The Socratic Method in Acting**

The Socratic Method refers to “a form of cooperative argumentative dialogue between individuals, based on asking and answering questions to stimulate critical thinking and to draw out ideas and underlying presuppositions.”

Instead of simply being given an answer, the Socratic Method asks students to dive deeper into an idea through a series of guiding questions. Using the Socratic Method, work through the following exercises with a partner.

**Using Irony for Humour**

Irony is broadly/generally defined as “the opposite of expectation”. There are three central types of irony: Situational, Verbal, and Dramatic. For this exercise, we will focus on the use of Situational Irony.

1. **Create TWO (2) character templates, and list them below. As a starting point, demonstrate your understanding of IRONY in creating a humorous/interesting/unique template. An example of an ironic character template might be: “A doctor who is afraid of blood” or “a lifeguard who doesn’t know how to swim”.**

**TEMPLATE A: A doctor that is afraid of a site of blood**

**TEMPLATE B: A chef that doesn’t enjoy cooking**

1. **Give your paper to a partner. For each of the templates, have them come up with 3-5 guiding questions. Remember that good questions are questions that begin with ideas like WHY and HOW that require complex answers, as opposed to WHAT/WHERE/WHO questions that can be answered simply in a word or two.**

**QUESTIONS FOR A:**

**1. How is he/she going to clean the wounds?**

**2. What will be his role in the operation theater?**

**3. Would he be able to handle any surgeries? If so, how? If not, what will he/she do?**

**4. What should he/she do in order to overcome his/her anxiety?**

**5. What if he happens to attend a serious accident with at least two people in a blood pool?**

**QUESTIONS FOR B:**

**1. Would he/she be able to find a workplace?**

**2. Do you think that his/her dishes will be tasty?**

**3. Would he/she be creative in cooking?**

**4. What if he/she had to cook for a big event?**

**5. Can he/she be a good assistant?**

1. **Have your partner return the paper, and come up with an answer for each of the questions below.**

**ANSWERS FOR A:**

**1) He/she will ask someone else to clean the wounds.**

**2) He will assist the person who is cleaning the wounds.**

**3) No, not that good because he/she is afraid of a site of blood and he/she might irritate/ask their boss.**

**4) He/she should practice as much and try not to be as afraid of blood as they were last time.**

**5) He/she will run away from that pool of blood and from that accident.**

**ANSWERS FOR B:**

**1) He/she might find a good workplace because their boss will not know that the person is a bad chef.**

**2) His/her dishes will not be that appetizing.**

**3) He/she will not be creative in cooking because since that person doesn’t enjoy cooking, they won’t bother to be creative in cooking**

**4) He/she would most likely hire somebody else to cook for that big event.**

**5) If he/she was a good assistant, that person wouldn’t be that good of an assistant because they don’t enjoy cooking.**

1. **Choose the character above that you “like the best” (for now). Who are they? Flesh out a full character through a game of Press Conference. Why might they hold a Press Conference? What developments for this character came out of this game? Reflect below.**