

SOCRATES PROGRAM

aspens institute



About Socrates

The Aspen Institute Socrates Program provides a forum for emerging leaders from various fields to convene and explore contemporary issues through expert-moderated dialogue. The program's seminars are designed as values-based Socratic explorations to facilitate the exchange of ideas. The program also allows participants to join a diverse professional network, and to access the broader range of the Institute's programs.



Seminar Approach

Socrates seminars are collaborative endeavors of leaders from a range of fields. Discussions are built around classic and contemporary texts and are led by moderators who engage and encourage participants to share their views with a diverse group of peers. The seminars provide stimulating dialogue, values-based introspection, and dynamic debate that serve to enhance participants' leadership capabilities.



Why is Socrates Unique?

- The program develops values-based leadership among emerging thought pioneers who seek to tackle the critical problems facing the world.
- The program champions the Institute's method of moderated learning through roundtable discussion.
- The program offers a seminar designed for busy professionals to engage in cross disciplinary thought and dive deeper into contemporary issues.
- The program creates a unique professional network and engages people to act on their ideas.
- The program offers a diverse alumni network which has grown to over 8,000 leaders from the United States and abroad.



Background

The Socrates Program was founded by Laura and Gary Lauder, longtime supporters and advocates of the Aspen Institute, in the summer of 1996 in an effort to provide a pathway for individuals. In the first session, “Dilemmas of the Digital Age,” technology trailblazers from Silicon Valley discussed the advent and evolution of the internet and the societal changes accompanying it. Socrates seminars continue to enable participants to explore current, pressing leadership challenges. Discussions are built around classic and contemporary texts, and are led by expert moderators who engage and encourage participants to share their views with a diverse group of peers.

“For me the thing about Socrates is as much about the substance of the conversation as the relationships. It is those relationships and the network that develops from this that is so powerful.”

– Andrew Ross Sorkin, Columnist for The New York Times



Scholarships

A variety of scholarship funds ensure the engagement of leaders from a broad range of backgrounds and organizations.

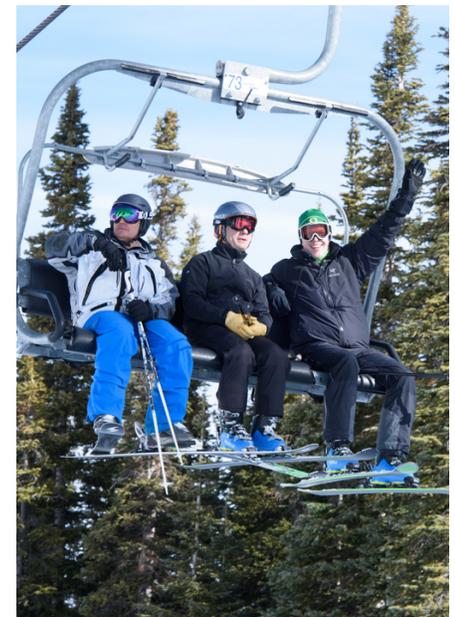
Moderators & Speakers

Past Socrates moderators & guest speakers include:

- Tom Friedman • Barack Obama • Wolf Blitzer
- Amy Walter • Dennis Ross • Maria Hinojosa
- Susan Desmond-Hellmann • John Hickenlooper
- Karen Kornbluh • Jay Coen Gilbert • John Stauffer
- Hussain Haqqani • Ezekiel Emanuel • Ted Olson
- David Gergen • Shashi Tharoor • Anne-Marie Slaughter
- Ayaan Hirsi Ali • Joseph Nye • Niall Ferguson
- Michelle Rhee • Jeff Rosen • Marissa Mayer
- Jonathan Zittrain • Reid Hoffman • Esther Dyson
- Dina Temple-Raston • Harvey Rishikof
- José M. De Areilza • Thomas Chatterton Williams
- Kai Ryssdal • Robin Wright • Melissa Murray

Socrates Network

At its core, the Socrates program has an engaged group of participants. The Socrates network has grown to include a diverse group of over 8,000 emerging leaders from the United States and around the world including entrepreneurs, investors, academics, policy experts and journalists, non-profit workers, among others. Socrates alumni remain active and engaged with the program, as well as connected with each other. Participants have gone on to open successful businesses together and share professional and personal networks and learning.



socratesprogram.org



socrates@aspensinstitute.org

