



Sample Socratic Advising Dialog

A: How is it going this semester?

S: Okay I guess.

A: You don't sound too sure. Can you elaborate for me? Are you having trouble with your classes or is there something else bother you?

S: I'm not too sure about my classes. I didn't do so hot in some of my classes last semester and I'm not doing that great in a couple of my classes this semester.

A: I see that you did well in some of your classes, why do you think you didn't do as well in the others?

S: Well... I know why I need to take math... that makes sense, especially since I am a Computer major. But I don't see why I need all the other stuff like history or communications. I HATE my speech class. I don't like to talk in front of people.

A: It sounds to me like you really don't see the point in taking classes that seem unrelated to your major. Are you putting as much effort into the classes that you don't like as you are in the others?

S: Not really. I never miss my math or my CIS 100 class, but I don't see the point in all the other stuff. I tend to skip those classes when there isn't anything important going on, like a test or something. What really matters are my CIS classes.

A: You do realize that bad grades in any of your classes jeopardizes you overall GPA, don't you? CIS is a very competitive field. Who do you think an employer would prefer?

S: I guess someone with a better GPA. I didn't think of that. But why do I have take things like speech?

A: What do you think a typical work day would be like for you once you graduate and get a job?

S: I'll sit at a computer, do my thing, create some killer new games, and go home.

A: Let's say you do get a job in the computer gaming industry, which again, is a very competitive field. Won't you have to interview for the job? What if you have to do a presentation for the rest of the company or talk to clients? Will you be comfortable talking in front of those people?

S: I totally didn't think about interviews! I didn't think about the other stuff either. I guess I need to go to class and pay attention. One of my speeches has to be in a presentation format, I guess I could relate it to my computer stuff. I guess I need to do better in my other classes if I want to graduate with honors.

A: Yeah, I would say that you need to do well in all of your classes if you want to graduate with honors. Besides grades, it is important to keep in mind that you gain skill sets from you other general education courses as well, even if it doesn't seem like it. If you really think about what and HOW you learn in those classes, you can start to make connections. Can you think of an example of another class that you are not too thrilled about but could help you later down the road?

S: I don't like English too much, but I guess I will need to write papers in my other classes. I'll have to think about some the other ones, but I guess they aren't so random after all.