

"Was Socrates a Teacher of Rhetoric?"

The best way to make sense of the content and structure of the Plato's "Phaedrus" is to read it as a representation of Socrates teaching Phaedrus about rhetoric by using the very skills and methods he describes as characterizing rhetoric. The plausibility of this line of interpretation is not fatally impaired by the fact that Socrates elsewhere appears to take rhetoric as the enemy of philosophy and to deny that he teaches anything.