

-  **SUBJECT** Philosophy
-  **LESSON TOPIC** Rene Descartes / Meditation 1 – What can be called into doubt
-  **GRADE** 16-18 years old
-  **TOOL** Insert Learning
-  **ACTIVITY** Interactive videos and text
  
-  **RESOURCES:** Useful links are included in the section 'Resources' of the pedagogical sequence n° 1.





### STEPS – GETTING STARTED

1. Go to: [InsertLearning.com](https://insertlearning.com)
2. Click on “add to chrome” to install the insert learning extension.
3. Log in using your Gmail account.

 chrome web store

Home > Extensions > InsertLearning

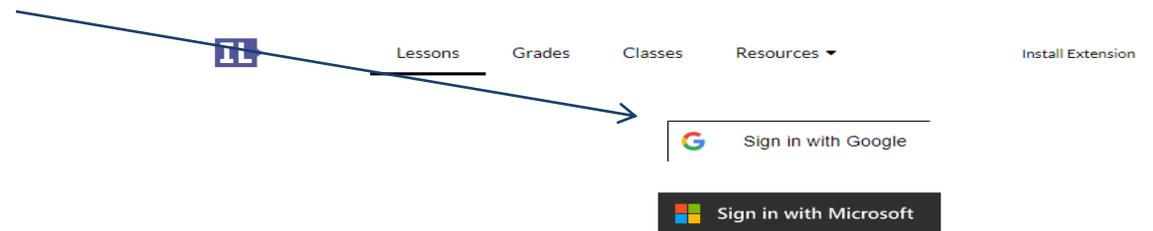
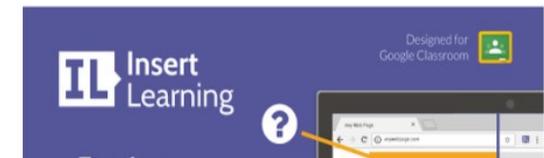


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## PREPARE THE ACTIVITY

1. Choose your web content (article/video/text).

Meditations on First Philosophy – Meditation 1

2. Click on the IL extension button at the top of the page. Once you have clicked on the IL extension, a bar will appear at the left side of your screen.



### Meditations on First Philosophy

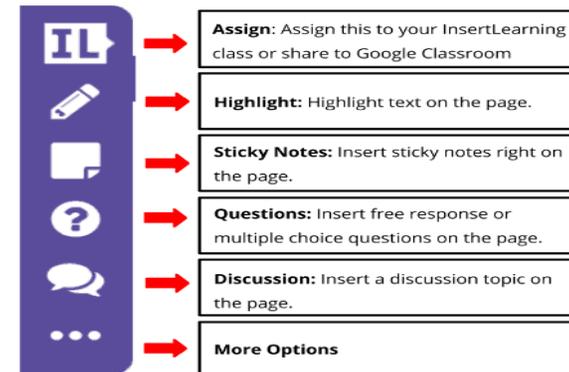
by [Rene Descartes](#)

#### MEDITATION I

##### OF THE THINGS OF WHICH WE MAY DOUBT

1. SEVERAL years have now elapsed since I first became aware that I had accepted, even from my youth, many false opinions for true, and that consequently what I afterward based on such principles was highly doubtful; and from that time I was convinced of the necessity of undertaking once in my life to rid myself of all the opinions I had adopted, and of commencing anew the work of building from the foundation, if I desired to establish a firm and abiding superstructure in the sciences. But as this enterprise appeared to me to be one of great magnitude, I waited until I had attained an age so mature as to leave me no hope that at any stage of life more advanced I should be better able to execute my design. On this account, I have delayed so long that I should henceforth consider I was doing wrong were I still to consume in deliberation any of the time that now remains for action. To-day, then, since I have opportunely freed my mind from all cares and am happily disturbed by no passions, and since I am in the secure possession of leisure in a peaceable retirement, I will at length apply myself earnestly and freely to the general overthrow of all my former opinions.

2. But, to this end, it will not be necessary for me to show that the whole of these are false—a point, perhaps, which I shall never reach; but as even now my reason convinces me that I ought not the less carefully to withhold belief from what is not entirely certain and indubitable, than from what is manifestly false, it will be sufficient to justify the rejection of the whole if I shall find in each some ground for doubt. Nor for this purpose will it be necessary even to deal with each belief individually, which would be truly an endless labor; but, as the removal from below of the foundation necessarily involves the downfall of the whole edifice, I will at once approach the criticism of the principles on which all my former beliefs rested.



3. Insert the instructional videos in text.

- Click the “Insert sticky note” button and Highlight “Rene Descartes”.

- Once you have highlighted “Rene Descartes” a box will appear.

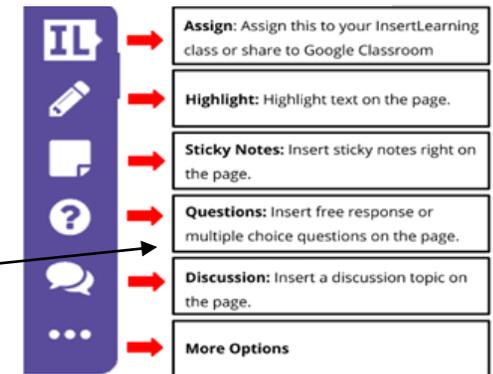
Inside the box, paste the YouTube link of the video you would like to show.

- Click the “Insert sticky note” button and Highlight “Meditation 1”
- Once you have highlighted “Meditation 1” a box will appear.

Inside the box, paste the YouTube link of the video you would like to show.

## Meditations on First Philosophy

by Rene Descartes



	<b>Assign:</b> Assign this to your InsertLearning class or share to Google Classroom
	<b>Highlight:</b> Highlight text on the page.
	<b>Sticky Notes:</b> Insert sticky notes right on the page.
	<b>Questions:</b> Insert free response or multiple choice questions on the page.
	<b>Discussion:</b> Insert a discussion topic on the page.
	<b>More Options</b>

## Meditations on First Philosophy

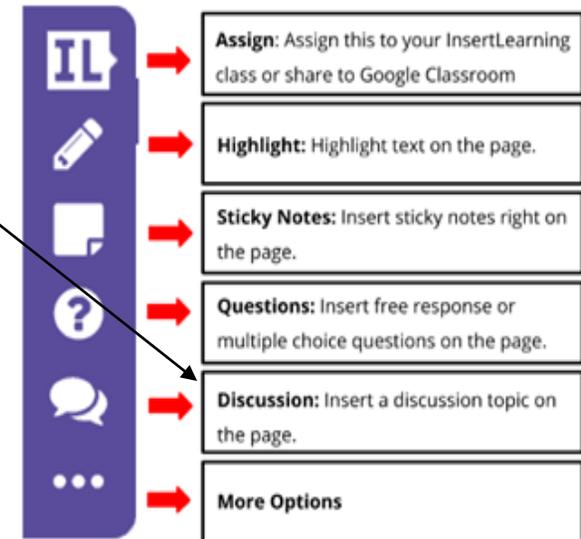
by Rene Descartes

Type here or paste anything: images, YouTube links, embed codes... ✖

MEDITATION I

4. Insert discussion questions

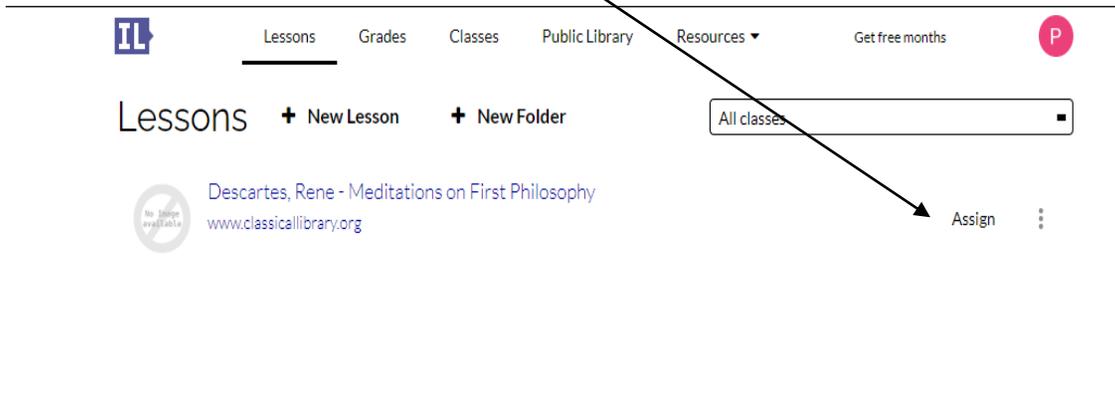
- Go to paragraph 4 and highlight the first sentence.  
Click on the “insert discussion” button and enter discussion question.
- Go to paragraph 6 and highlight the first sentence.  
Click on the “insert discussion” button and enter discussion question.(How can we be certain that dreams are not real?)
- Go to paragraph 9 and highlight the last sentence.  
Click on the “insert discussion” button and enter discussion question. (Is it possible that we are deceived by an Evil Demon?)



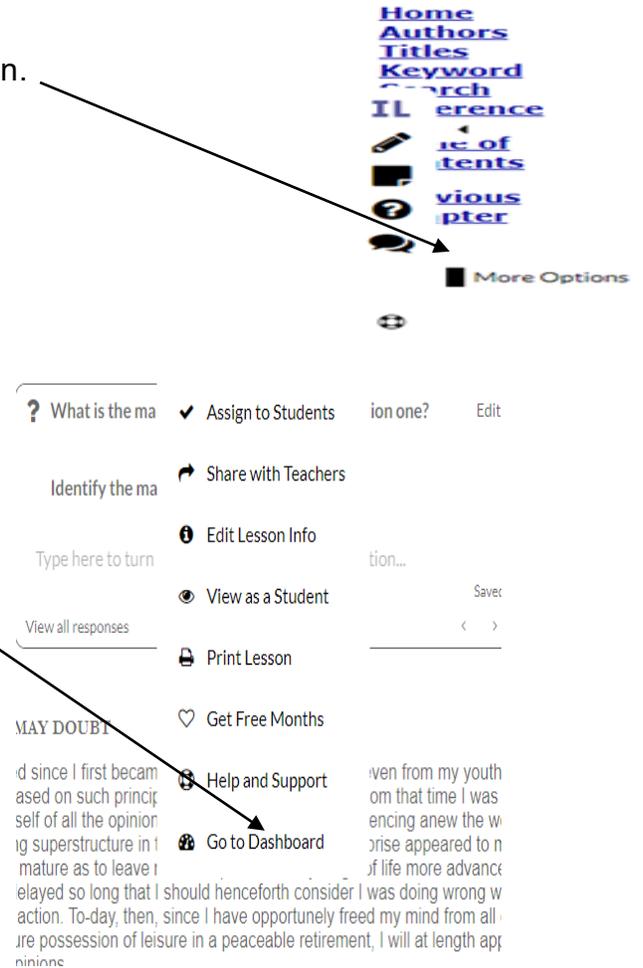


SAVE AND PUBLISH

1. When you are done with your text interactions, click on the “more options” button.
2. Click on “Go to Dashboard”
3. A copy of your interactive text will appear.
4. Click on the “Assign” button to share with your students.

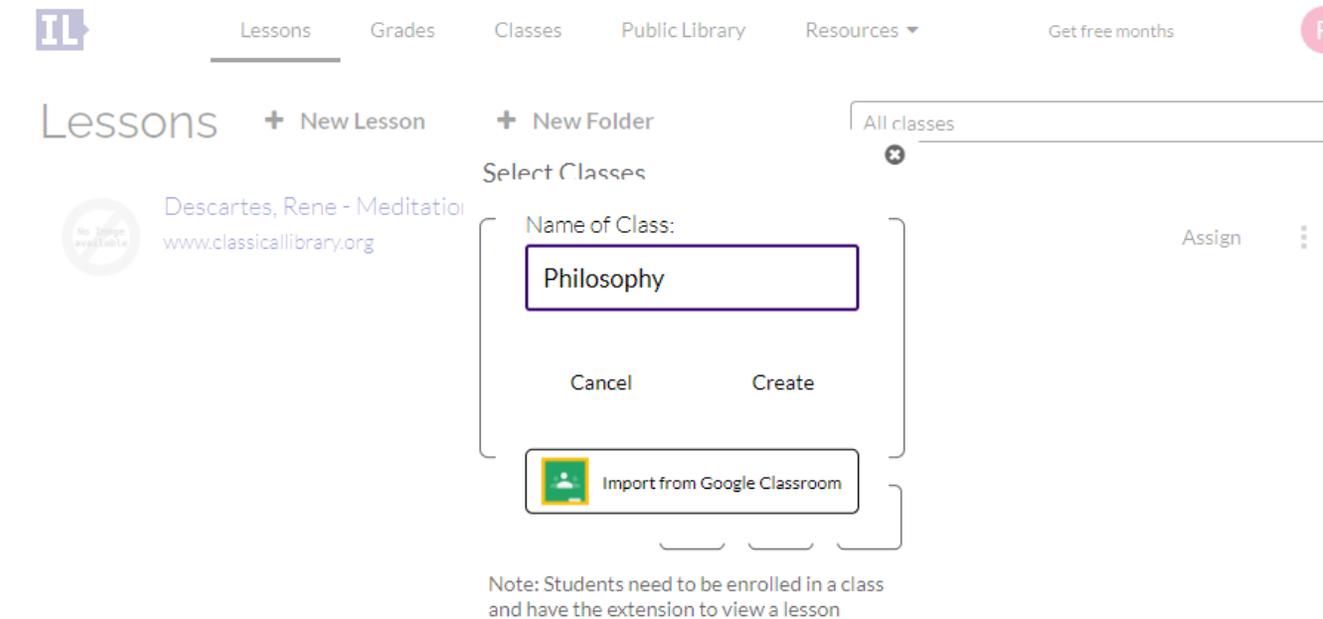


The screenshot shows the IL platform interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: Lessons, Grades, Classes, Public Library, Resources, and a 'Get free months' button. Below this, the 'Lessons' section is active, showing a '+ New Lesson' and '+ New Folder' button. A dropdown menu is open, showing 'All classes'. Below the dropdown, there is a lesson entry for 'Descartes, Rene - Meditations on First Philosophy' with a 'No image available' icon and the URL 'www.classicallibrary.org'. An 'Assign' button is visible next to the lesson entry, with an arrow pointing to it from step 4.



The screenshot shows the 'More Options' menu. The menu items are: Home, Authors, Titles, Keyword, Search, IL, erence, ic of tents, vious pter, and More Options. Below the menu, there is a list of actions: What is the ma, Assign to Students, ion one?, Edit, Identify the ma, Share with Teachers, Type here to turn, Edit Lesson Info, tion..., View as a Student, Save, View all responses, Print Lesson, MAY DOUBT, Get Free Months, Help and Support, and Go to Dashboard. The 'Go to Dashboard' button is highlighted with an arrow from step 2.

5. When you click assign, you can either create a class or import your google classrooms.



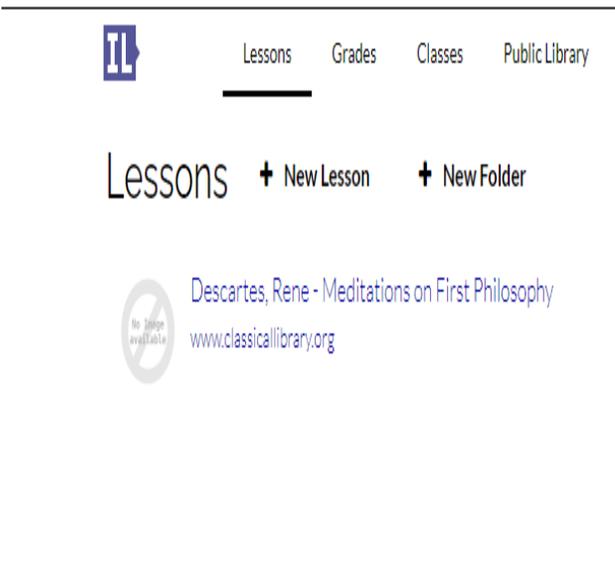
The screenshot shows the IL interface with the 'Lessons' tab selected. A modal dialog box is open for assigning a lesson. The dialog box has a 'Name of Class' field containing 'Philosophy', 'Cancel' and 'Create' buttons, and an 'Import from Google Classroom' button. A note below the dialog box states: 'Note: Students need to be enrolled in a class and have the extension to view a lesson'.

6. Ask students to enrol in the class and install the IL extension.



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

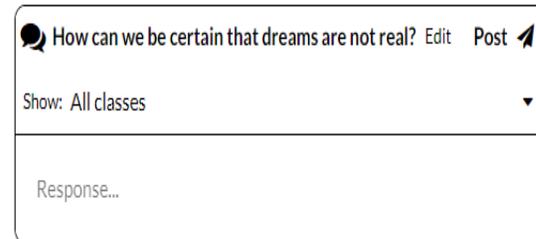
Check out the final example:



The screenshot shows a digital learning platform interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: 'Lessons', 'Grades', 'Classes', and 'Public Library'. Below these, the 'Lessons' section is active, showing options for '+ New Lesson' and '+ New Folder'. A search bar contains the text 'Descartes, Rene - Meditations on First Philosophy' and the URL 'www.classicallibrary.org'. A 'No items available' message is displayed next to the search results. On the right side of the interface, there is a vertical sidebar with icons for 'IL', a pencil, a document, a question mark, a speech bubble, and a globe.

3. All that I have, up to this moment, accepted as possessed of the highest truth and certainty, I received either from or through the senses. I observed, however, that these sometimes misled us, and it is the part of prudence not to place absolute confidence in that by which we have even once been deceived.

4. But it may be said, perhaps, that, although the senses occasionally mislead us respecting minute objects, and such as are so far removed from us as to be beyond the reach of close observation, there are yet many other of their informations (presentations), of the truth of which it is manifestly impossible to doubt; as for example, that I am in this place, seated by the fire, clothed in a winter dressing gown, that I hold in my hands this piece of paper, with other intimations of the same nature. But how could I deny that I possess these hands and this body, and withal escape being classed with persons in a state of insanity, whose brains are so disordered and clouded by dark bilious vapors as to cause them pertinaciously to assert that they are monarchs when they are in the greatest poverty; or clothed in gold] and purple when destitute of any covering; or that their head is made of clay, their body of glass, or that they are gourds? I should certainly be not less insane than they, were I to regulate my procedure according to examples so extravagant.



The screenshot shows a discussion post interface. At the top, there is a question: 'How can we be certain that dreams are not real?' with 'Edit' and 'Post' buttons. Below the question, there is a dropdown menu showing 'Show: All classes'. At the bottom, there is a text input field labeled 'Response...'.

5. Though this be true, I must nevertheless here consider that I am a man, and that, consequently, I am in the habit of sleeping, and representing to myself in dreams those same things, or even sometimes others less probable, which the insane think are presented to them in their waking moments. How often have I dreamt that I was in these familiar circumstances, that I was dressed, and occupied this place by the fire, when I was lying undressed in bed? At the present moment, however, I certainly look upon this paper with eyes wide awake; the head which I now move is not asleep; I extend this hand consciously and with express purpose, and I perceive it; the occurrences in sleep are not so distinct as all this. But I cannot forget that, at other times I have been deceived in sleep by similar illusions; and, attentively considering those cases, I perceive so clearly that there exist no certain marks by which the state of waking can ever be distinguished from sleep, that I feel greatly astonished; and in amazement I almost persuade myself that I am now dreaming.

