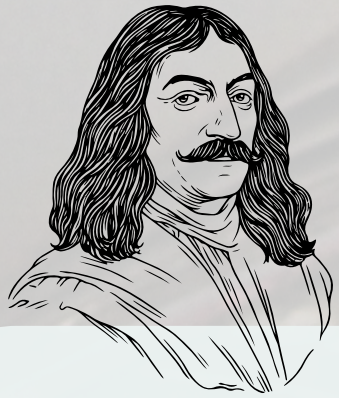


Descartes' Square: A Tool for Decision-Making



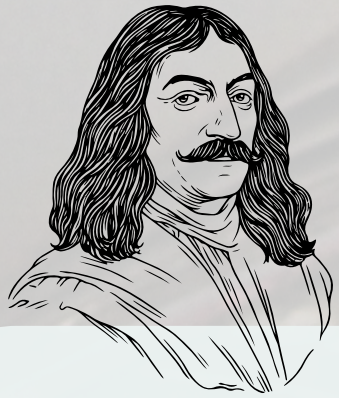
Descartes' Square: A Tool for Decision-Making



René Descartes, a 17th-century French philosopher and mathematician, is renowned for his profound contributions to rationalism. He championed the importance of doubt as a tool for gaining understanding, encapsulated in his famous declaration:

*“Cogito, ergo sum” —“I think, therefore I am.”

One of Descartes' innovative problem-solving strategies is the “Descartes' Square,” a method for making conscious and well-thought-out decisions. By answering four key questions and analyzing the responses, this approach enables clarity and rational decision-making.

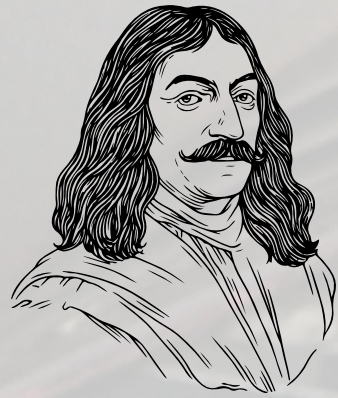


Descartes' Square: A Tool for Decision-Making

Descartes' philosophy emphasizes rational thinking and skepticism, encouraging a structured and deliberate approach to tackling any issue. He argued that every belief should be scrutinized to uncover the truth. By applying Descartes' Square, we can challenge our instincts, explore all facets of a problem, and arrive at more informed and balanced conclusions.

Descartes' method invites us to reflect on four critical questions:

- What will happen if THIS happens?
- What will happen if THIS doesn't happen?
- What WON'T happen if THIS happens?
- What WON'T happen if THIS doesn't happen?



Descartes' Square: A Tool for Decision-Making



What will happen if THIS happens?

This question helps us identify the potential benefits or positive outcomes of our future actions if we decide to take them.

What will happen if THIS doesn't happen?

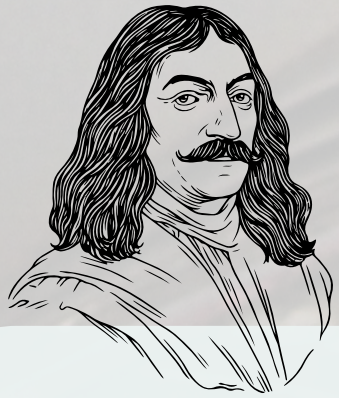
This question reveals missed opportunities if the decision is not made. Often, it helps us better understand what we lose by not taking a certain step.

What WON'T happen if THIS happens?

This question allows us to see which negative consequences we can avoid by taking action.

What WON'T happen if THIS doesn't happen?

This question prompts us to consider what potential negative outcomes might be prevented if we refrain from acting.



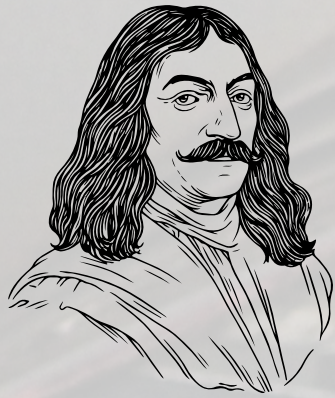
Descartes' Square: A Tool for Decision-Making



When applied to the decision of writing, Descartes' method invites us to reflect on these four key questions:

- What will happen if you write a book?
- What will happen if you don't write a book?
- What WON'T happen if you write a book?
- What WON'T happen if you don't write a book?

This tailored framework helps writers thoughtfully evaluate their motivations, overcome doubts, and approach their projects with confidence and purpose.



Descartes' Square: A Tool for Decision-Making



What will happen if you write a book?

(e.g., You'll preserve your memories, share your story, and achieve a sense of accomplishment.)

What will happen if you don't write a book?

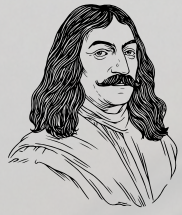
(e.g., Future generations may never know your story, and your insights or experiences could be lost.)

What WON'T happen if you write a book?

(e.g., You won't regret not sharing your experiences or leaving a legacy for your family.)

What WON'T happen if you don't write a book?

(e.g., The story of your family or your own life will remain untold, and the opportunity to reflect and create will be missed.)



Descartes' Square: A Tool for Decision-Making

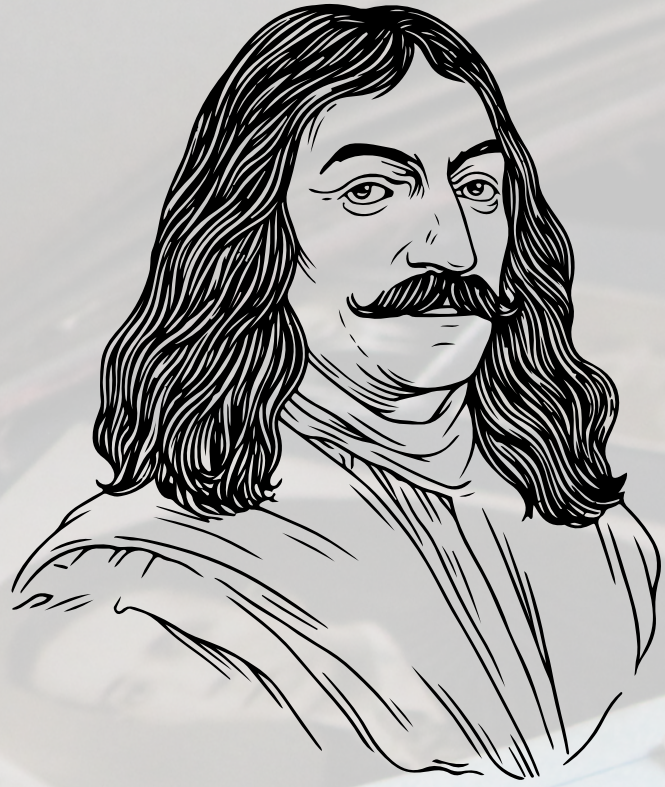


What will happen if you write a book?

What will happen if you don't write a book?

What WON'T happen if you write a book?

What WON'T happen if you don't write a book?



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