

Advocate Speech

[Intro] “It is interesting to contemplate an entangled bank, clothed with many plants of many kinds, with birds singing on the bushes, with various insects flitting about, and with worms crawling through the damp earth, and to reflect that these elaborately constructed forms, so different from each other, and dependent on each other in so complex a manner, have all been produced by laws acting around us... Thus, from the war of nature, from famine and death, the most exalted object which we are capable of conceiving, namely, the production of the higher animals, directly follows” (Darwin 489). This quote from “On The Origin of Species” by Charles Darwin revolutionized science, paving the way for the theory of evolution and the theory of the Big Bang. However, a new branch of ideas challenge the theory of evolution and the theory of the Big Bang by attributing the creation of the universe to an intelligent being; in most instances, the intelligent being is God. These new sets of ideas are called intelligent design. I have done extensive research into both evolution and intelligent design and I have concluded that intelligent design is not a valid scientific theory to explain the formation of the universe and subsequent events. The false acceptance of intelligent design as a valid scientific theory is an issue that needs to be address. Evidence for evolution and lack of evidence for intelligent design can be used to correct this issue. With the realization that intelligent design is not a valid theory, existing controversies like the debate of whether intelligent design should be taught in public schools can be resolved, in favor for it not being taught.

[Body] To understand the issue at hand, intelligent design must be defined. According to intelligentdesign.org, intelligent design “holds that certain features of the universe and of living things are best explained by an intelligent cause, not an undirected process such as natural selection” (“Explaining the Science of Intelligent Design”). One of the most frequently used arguments by proponents of intelligent design is that evolution is only a theory and therefore, it cannot be verified. Despite its common vernacular use as a set of ideas not yet verified and therefore flawed, theory in its

scientific use is way to explain a given phenomenon occurring in the universe. According to notjustatheory.com, a theory is “well-substantiated, well-supported, and well-documented explanation for our observations” (“Evolution is Not Just A Theory”). The idea that the Earth goes around the sun – that’s a theory. The idea was first explained by Newton’s theory of gravity and even better defined by Einstein’s theory of relativity. Most would agree that these theories are valid; in fact, we know without a shadow of a doubt that Einstein’s theory of relativity is correct because of its application in GPS satellite clocks, which tick slightly slower than clocks on the surface of the Earth. Just because it’s labeled the theory of gravity or the theory of relativity does not diminish the validity of the ideas. The same can be said for the theory of evolution, but not for intelligent design. Intelligent design is not a theory; it is simply just not true.

There is much evidence to support the theory of the Big Bang. One of the best supporting evidences of the Big Bang is described by Hubble’s Law which shows that the universe is uniformly expanding and that the expansion is accelerated; that is, galaxies further away from us travel faster away from us than galaxies closer to us. Extrapolating backwards, Hubble’s Law shows that the universe at one time was infinitely dense and infinitely small before the Big Bang started the expansion of the universe. More evidence in support of the theory of the Big Bang is cosmic microwave background radiation. As the universe expands, the photons that comprise the cosmic microwave background radiation are redshifted; that is, the wavelength of the light is stretched more and more as the universe expands. This ultimately means that the temperature of the universe is inversely proportional to its lifetime; extrapolate backwards, and the universe was infinitely hot while it was infinitely dense and small.

There is also much evidence to support the theory of evolution. An experiment by John Endler shows that populations can evolve and adapt to given surrounding by the process of natural selection

("Experiments"). Despite popular and incorrect beliefs, many transitional fossils or "missing links" have been found, not only transitional fossils for humans, but a number of other animals as well.

The scientific community disregards intelligent design for its lack of evidence, which leads to its lack of being published in peer reviewed scientific journals (Branch). However, many in the religious right have been fighting for many years to have intelligent design taught beside of evolution. The problem that exists is that a subculture of society attempts to push intelligent design into classrooms in the struggle to have intelligent design recognized as a valid scientific theory by having school boards vote on the its validity. Thankfully, science is not democratic. To demonstrate, I unscientifically polled a sample of 3 people to vote on how many stones were in a box. Two people voted that there were three stones in the box and one voted that there were ten stones in the box. However, this did not change the number of stones in the box. The only way to know for sure is to open the box and count the number of stones.

I can tell you how to solve this problem. Educate. We must realize that science is not a democratic process in which scientists vote for what theories to accept and what theories to disregard. Theories are not educated guesses – they answer the question of "why?" and are not considered incorrect or faulty in science. For those of you who are in opposition to my plan, that believe that intelligent design is a sound scientific theory, and that believe that intelligent design should be taught in public schools as science, consider this: there is a group of people who call themselves Raelins who believe in intelligent design, but probably not in the way you do. Instead of a god that created man, they believe that aliens created and implanted humans on the Earth. It is humorous to watch those in favor of intelligent design label the Raelins as crazy and unsound when they fundamentally believe the exact same thing (Teller).

If my plan is not implemented, then the problem will only become worse. If intelligent design is claimed to be scientific while it is really not, then those that believe in intelligent design will keep

pushing the idea that ideals do not have to be scientific to be considered scientific. These false theories will be pushed into public schools, and if that is allowed, then a breakdown of the First Amendment's "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or preventing the free exercise thereof" can occur. Under my plan, science will remain objective and factual, and students in school can be taught factual information instead of false theories.

I would like to close with a quote from physicist Carl Sagan. "It is far better to grasp the universe as it really is than to persist in delusion, however satisfying and reassuring."