

Issues Map

Proposition

Proposition Intelligent design should not be taught in public school systems in the United States.

Definition Intelligent design is the theory that an intelligent consciousness created the universe.

Description

Situation Some public school systems have voted that intelligent design is a valid alternative theory to explain the creation of the universe. Intelligent design is either taught explicitly in the classroom or disclaimers are placed onto science textbooks claiming that intelligent design is valid, scientific alternative to the Big Bang theory.

Context Argument sphere lies in the public, technical, and personal sphere. The argument mainly lies in the public sphere. The technical sphere is involved because of scientific equations and jargon. The personal sphere is also included because of various points of view about the formation of the universe.

Parties The primary party that is affected are the public school students that are subject to the curriculum of the school system. Secondary parties include the parents of the students, teachers, and government at some level.

Issues

Fact issues The intelligent design debate is fairly new, but stems through the sprouting debate of evolution in the early 1900s. Granted the government follows its laws, intelligent design will be forbidden to be taught in the classroom.

Value issues The issue at hand is whether intelligent design is a scientifically accurate alternative to the Big Bang theory, held by most scientists as the event that formed the universe.

Policy issues Some school boards in the United States have decided to allow the scientific curriculum to include intelligent design, but at the expense of government resources and more importantly, the inaccuracy of the intelligent design theory.

Argument Potential

Goal The successful outcome of the argument is that intelligent design will not be taught in the public school system. Private schools are free to teach as they please because they are not paid government money. The supporters of intelligent design wish it to be taught, however, until it can be scientifically viable, then it should be omitted.

Parties The school board can choose whether or not intelligent design should be taught. However, a lawsuit could bring the debate to the Supreme Court.

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| Resources | Intelligent design needs to be proven a scientifically viable alternative before it can be considered to be taught in the public school system. The debate has already consumed government resources, which may or may not be readily available. |
| Alternatives | There is no other alternative. Until intelligent design can be shown to be scientifically viable, it should not be taught in the public school system. |