

## Anth 111 Evolution versus Intelligent Design Mock-Debate

The debate about teaching the theory of evolution or intelligent design is based in differences of opinion about what constitutes “truth”. In science, observed phenomena are measured against the standard of scientific validity; in many other realms such as religion, phenomena are evaluated according to standards of truth and proof determined by their religious beliefs. As we have seen in the movie “Judgment Day” and as you’ll see in the articles and web resources I’ve posted on our course Blackboard, people committed to these positions consider themselves in total opposition to the other. On Wednesday, we will conduct a mock debate. At the end, we will discuss what science is, what intelligent design is, and how biological and religious beliefs conflict in the classroom. Our overall goal is to take apart this controversy and understand what is at stake, and why it is consequential for anthropology.

### Teams:

*Please create your own team name!*

<u>Team 1</u>	<u>Team 2</u>	<u>Team 3</u>	<u>Team 4</u>

### Questions:

Round 1 – Should evolution be taught in middle school science classrooms?

Round 2 – If evolution is just a theory, does it benefit Christian students later to learn about it?

### Debate Structure:

2 rounds @ 20 minutes each; Each team will participate in 1 round

<u>Side</u>	<u>Presentation</u>	<u>Time (max.)</u>
<b>Team 1</b>	Opening statement giving three arguments to argue for their position	5 minutes
<b>Team 2</b>	Opening statement giving three arguments to argue for their position	5 minutes
<b>Team 1</b>	Rebuttal: repeat opponents’ arguments, say what is wrong with their positions	3 minutes
-	Instructor questions for <b>Team 1</b> after their rebuttal	1 minute
<b>Team 2</b>	Rebuttal: repeat opponents’ arguments, say what is wrong with their positions	3 minutes
-	Instructor questions for <b>Team 2</b> after their rebuttal	1 minute
<b>Team 1</b>	Summarize position by speaking to their opponents’ counterpoints and closes with why their argument is best	1 minute
<b>Team 2</b>	Summarize position by speaking to their opponents’ counterpoints and closes with why their argument is best	1 minute

## *What do I do now?*

- **Exchange contact information** with your group members
- **Divide your team's debate tasks** (opening statement, rebuttal, summary) among group members – I recommend 2 people work together to complete each section so you are sure to be prepared
- **Watch more of the movie** so you understand the results of the trial in Dover, PA
- **Search through the resources on Blackboard** for arguments and supporting details for your team
- Remember: Even if you don't write down your team's argument, rebuttal, and conclusion word-for-word, you will need to have prepared:
  - 1-2 sentence summary of your position
  - 3 key arguments for your side to support your position
  - Yourself to think and speak for your position (the quality, not quantity, of your contribution to class is what is graded!)