

First Writing Assignment

Type of assignment: Position/Argument paper

Due date: **Thursday February 25th in discussion.** I made this the due date since it's after all the lectures on biological evolution, including the evolution of (the physical nature of) humans.

Format: Any standard reference format (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.) as long as sources are properly cited. Please don't use a cover page, since I'd like to save paper. ;-)

Length and other logistics: Your paper should be at least 4 pages and no more than 8. It should be double-spaced, be in a 12-point font, and have 1-inch margins. The final page should contain works cited apropos the format you're using.

General Topic: The two-fold related topics of your opinion about (biological) evolution and what it means to be human. Both of these topics should be addressed in your paper.

Subtopics in suggested order from beginning to end:

- State a definition of *biological evolution* and cite your source.
- Does this definition conflict with your world view in any way? Why or why not? For example, if you're some form of "Biblical creationist" (i.e., the Genesis stories give an explicit scientific narrative of Creation and can only be interpreted one way) explain why modern meteorological theory is not in conflict with Job chapter 38 but why "Theistic evolution" does conflict with the Bible. Again, cite sources to support your position.
 - If you're not this kind of "Biblical creationist" state whether or not you believe there's a conflict between the Biblical creation accounts and the findings of current science. Same deal – cite sources.
- Define what you think it means to be *human*. If you are a Christian (Jewish and Muslim also apply here) define what it means to be "*made in the image of God?*" Note that you can answer this question regardless of your religious upbringing or your personal faith or lack of at the moment. I mean we're all here, and we're all humans, part of the same population and pretty much the same culture. It's fine to effect some introspection at this time. At the very least it will help you with core 9. Again, you should proclaim your opinion, but you should also cite your sources.
- Note: You will not receive a lower grade if you "disagree" with me (although I would challenge you to articulate what *I* believe), but you must support your opinion and *cite your sources*.