

Agreement regarding debate, November 16, 2009 on the topic of
"Should Intelligent Design Be Taught In the Schools?"

I agree that the debate will be held on a courteous intellectual level without personal attacks.

I agree that the moderator will have the authority to enforce the agreed upon time limits, to cut off inappropriate comments or questions from the floor and also to restate questions if he feels that they have not been adequately answered.

I give permission to Lehrke Productions to record the entire debate and make it available for distribution, including sale, with free copies to be given to the participants for use as they see fit as long as proper attribution is made and sections are not edited in a way to take comments out of context.

**Debate: "Should Intelligent Design Be Taught in the Schools?"
Dr. Jerry Bergman vs. Dr. Paul Z. Myers**

This debate is co-sponsored by Christian Student Fellowship and Campus Atheists, Skeptics and Humanists
and Twin Cities Creation Science Association

It is the position of the sponsors that the rational discussion of competing ideas is valuable if not essential for the progress of knowledge. Therefore, disruptive behavior or attempts to interfere with this discussion are considered inappropriate and to actually betray a fear that the intellectual position being advocated cannot stand on its own. Thus, the larger issue in this debate is whether academic freedom and mutual respect of ideological opponents can exist on the university campus, not only at Minnesota but across the country. Your cooperation is expected.

If you would be so kind, completing the survey both before and after the debate will help us in evaluation.

Survey -- Pre-test (circle the word that most closely approximates your opinion)

I think intelligent design should be taught alongside evolution in all schools, public and private.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Undecided Agree Strongly Agree

I think intelligent design should be taught alongside evolution by teachers who support it, without punishment.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Undecided Agree Strongly Agree

Survey -- Post-test (circle the word that most closely approximates your opinion)

I think intelligent design should be taught alongside evolution in all schools, public and private.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Undecided Agree Strongly Agree

I think intelligent design should be taught alongside evolution by teachers who support it, without punishment.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Undecided Agree Strongly Agree

I think the discussion was held on an intellectual level that can serve as an example for other discussions.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Undecided Agree Strongly Agree

Comments:

Name and contact information (optional):

Timetable of the Debate "Should Intelligent Design Be Taught In The Schools?"
November 16, 2009, North Star Ballroom, St Paul Student Center, University of Minnesota

7:30 pm Introductory remarks by one of the sponsors and introduction of the moderator
7:35 pm Introductory remarks by the moderator and introduction of the speakers,
Coin flip to determine who goes first.
7:40 pm First Speaker: Summary of the case (20 minutes)
8:00 pm Second Speaker: Summary of the case (20 minutes)
8:20 pm First Speaker: Rebuttal (10 minutes)
8:30 pm Second Speaker: Rebuttal (10 minutes)
8:40 pm Specific questions by each speaker directed at the other speaker
Beginning with First Speaker, questions limited to 1 minute, answers to 2 minutes
9:00 pm Questions from the audience (Questions limited to 1 minute, answers to 2 minutes)
9:20 pm Closing comments by First Speaker
9:25 pm Closing comments by Second Speaker
9:30 pm Adjourn

Dr. Myers objected to the question below because he believes that there is no evidence against evolution. He did not accept the justification that the point was part of the debate. With the agreement of Dr. Bergman it was dropped.

I think that as a minimum, the evidence against evolution should be taught alongside evidence for evolution.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Undecided Agree Strongly Agree

The following e-mail conversation took place leading to the modification of the questionnaire and agreement of all:

From: PZ Myers [myersp@morris.umn.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2009 11:32 AM
To: Ross Olson
Cc: 'Jerry Bergman'; 'Mark Borrello'
Subject: Re: Documents regarding debate

On Oct 27, 2009, at 11:27 AM, Ross Olson wrote:

Perhaps an alternative question could be:

I think the question is (circle all that apply):
Scientific Philosophical Religious Educational None of these

You don't need an alternative. Just cut the questions out, please.

It's not hard. Why are you even bothering to ask for my input, if you're just going to look for ways to circumvent the issue?

From: Ross Olson [ross@rossolson.org]
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2009 2:38 PM
To: 'Mark Borrello'; 'PZ Myers'
Cc: 'Jerry Bergman'

Subject: RE: Documents regarding debate
Attachments: Debate Survey Revised.doc

I am fine with leaving it out. I thought it would have been helpful to clarify the positions taken by the audience before and after the debate and to me the first question or either alternative would have done it.

But if it is a sticking point, here is the revised questionnaire.

Can all now sign the Agreement and shall we proceed?

Ross

From: PZ Myers [myersp@morris.umn.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2009 3:08 PM
To: Ross Olson
Cc: 'Mark Borrello'; 'Jerry Bergman'
Subject: Re: Documents regarding debate

On Oct 27, 2009, at 2:37 PM, Ross Olson wrote:

Can all now sign the Agreement and shall we proceed?

Yes.

So all parties, moderator Dr. Mark Borrello and debaters, Dr. P.Z. Myers and Dr. Jerry Bergman, agreed to the terms. A signed copy was requested from all, especially for the benefit of the video company to assure them that their effort on recording the event would result in a DVD that can be distributed.

The agreement is a call to the audience to also keep the event on a courteous intellectual level as an example of the way academic freedom is supposed to work.

May the better ideas win.

Compiled by Ross Olson