

As part of the AAAS Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion (DoSER), our class has been selected to participate in a discussion forum on diverse community perspectives on evolutionary biology, and the effect of media coverage on perceptions of evolutionary biology. Students will be asked to contribute an ~800 word paper on the class discussion scheduled for Sept. 20, or they may interview a religious leader, science writer, or ethics professional of their choice regarding personal perspectives on evolutionary biology and ethical/spiritual conflicts. Format will follow professional articles found on ***The Conversation*** (see posted examples).

Paper Prompts

1. What do you wish the general public knew about evolution? How might you fill these knowledge gaps?
2. What do you see as the greatest challenges in communication between evolutionary biologists and the general public? What strategies could improve this communication?
3. Did any aspects of the readings for Sept. 19th surprise you? Discuss why or why not and what this means for the state of evolution education.
4. Interview a religious leader, science writer, or ethics professional regarding their personal perspectives on evolutionary biology and ethical or spiritual conflicts. How do you think these conflicts could be mediated?

Grading rubric

Criteria		Meets all (2)	Some parts missing (1)	Missing (0)
Topic Focus	Prompt is addressed in expository style	Prompt is described as a part of the introductory section	Prompt is listed, not described as part of the introduction	Unclear which prompt was selected
	Evidence of deep thought about the topic	Uses description, detail, quotes, personal views, and references to examine current dialogue about prompt	Some detail in the discussion of prompt	Lacks detail in reflection or understanding of current dialogue on prompt
Content	An opinion is introduced and supported by the author	Author's opinion is clear and present in all sections of the paper	Author's opinion is only clear after reading the whole paper	Paper lacks an opinion that the author has on the prompt
	Transitions connects ideas	Easy to read and follow the ideas	Choppy and confusing in	Difficult to read due to little

	and sentences in the paper	in the paper	parts	transition between ideas
Organization Paper has:	An introduction	Paper introduces the prompt and prepares the reader for the evidence to be described in the body	Paper introduces the prompt but gives little indication as to the evidence to be described in the body	Paper jumps in to information or personal reflection without background
	A body with 1 or more explanatory sections	Sections elaborate on the introduction and provide evidence to support the author's opinion	Some additional material would better support the author's opinion	Lacks discussion to support opinion
	A reflective conclusion	Author sums up their opinion on the prompt in several sentences	Conclusion is brief, may lack reflection	Abrupt ending without reflection
Conventions/ Mechanics	Word minimum	~800 words		Less than 500 words
	Grammar and punctuation	No or few grammar and punctuation issues	A few issues in multiple sections	Difficult to read due to grammar and punctuation issues
	At least 1 citation in APA style	At least 1 citation in correct format	Incorrect format	No references provided

Total points: 19
