



Teachers should be allowed to teach creationism in schools

In 2012 a US state passed a law which protects teachers who choose to teach creationism. This is a theory that the Earth and the universe was created by God, and that there is scientific information to justify this concept. This means it will be taught alongside evolutionary theory during science classes. Many believe this to be a mistake that it does not follow the principles of academic principles of freedom, critical thinking, and good scientific practise. Others however think that evolution is also a belief, so freedom of teaching creationism follows the principles religious freedom.

Points For	Points Against
This is a freedom of speech issue and has nothing to do with science. We all have beliefs that need to be expressed. If a science teacher feels that evolution is lacking evidence then they should be able to teach what they believe to be correct.	You're right, evolution is a theory, but, it is one of the most regularly tested scientific concepts for more than 100 years. There is a whole body of evidence to show that the theory has merit and follows standards committed by scientists.
Students should have the freedom to choose. We are in favour of a critical and constructive discourse. If there is a problem with creationism then the community need to have a debate about it and not try to silence people who don't follow evolutionary theory.	Creationism is just a way of the Church and religious groups to influence the school system. The fact is that people who go to church and officially follow a religion has fallen steadily over the last 50 years. This is an attempt to hi-jack the academic process to force people into a way of thinking.
The new law only refers to the scientific information and does not include religious teaching in any way. The State will always remain separate from the Church.	This is a slippery slope. Once this is allowed in schools, other attempts will be made to change the curriculum and sooner than most have realised other subjects like; climate change denial will be taught as fact.



Useful language to use in formal debates

In general, you would need to come up with 4-5 main arguments to support your team's debating position. It's also important to remember to also anticipate the opposition's arguments to help you defend your team's point of view.

Building your Argument

Introducing your point: To begin with... First of all...

Connecting your points: Also... Furthermore... What's more...

Showing importance: More importantly... What's worse... Above all else...

Giving examples: For instance... For example...

Opinions, Preferences:

In my opinion..., The way I see it..., As far as I'm concerned..., If it were up to me..., I suppose..., I suspect that..., I'm pretty sure that..., I honestly feel that, Without a doubt...,

Disagreeing:

Don't you think it would be better..., Shouldn't we consider..., But what about..., I'm afraid I don't agree..., Frankly, I doubt if..., The truth of the matter is..., The problem with your point of view is that..., It's a fact that..., According to ..., The reality of the situation is..., The numbers show that..., The fact is this:...,

Partially agreeing:

I agree with you to a point however..., I see where you are coming from but..., I see what you are saying but ...,

Delaying Strategies

I can't answer that directly..., I'll need time to think about that..., That's a very interesting question, because..., That's a difficult question to answer,

Asking someone to repeat

Pardon me? Pardon? Excuse me? Sorry? I'm sorry? I beg your pardon?

Holding the floor

Hold on..., Hold on a second..., Yes, I was about to mention that..., Well, I was about to come to that..., Sorry, I haven't finished yet ., I haven't made my point yet ...

Expressing solutions and alternatives

The solution is to..., Then you will..., The best way to ... is ...,
To ..., you really have to ..., There are many choices....,

Supplementary materials



If needed, each member can be given a card indicating their position in the debate.

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