

Janovy, BIOS 101

Blackboard announcement:

On Friday before Fall Break I'd like to do something other than class on that day if you're willing. Here's the offer: If at least 200 (different) students post 250-word comments on the Discussion Board forum on Evolution by next Wednesday before class, then we will cancel class on Friday. Follow-up papers due the next Wednesday would then be only two pages long: your post, typed out double-spaced, and your page of self-assessment. So here is the online prompt for Friday, if you're willing to take me up on the offer:

Produce a deep, philosophical, creative, mysterious, ORIGINAL, 250-word essay on the subject "Evolution, and what it means to me and to humanity in general" to be posted on Blackboard by noon, Wednesday. (Your post can be single-spaced; your typed version with follow-up needs to be double-spaced.)

NOTE: This document is intended to improve college-level science education at the introductory level. All the students who asked that their contributions not be included have been eliminated from the following list.

The contributions (F = Female; M = Male):

(1) F

Evolution has always been looked at as a touchy subject and for every reason has a right to be, depending on how it's taken anyway. If one's thoughts lean toward the belief that humans have evolved from microorganisms, that means they are saying that the religious beliefs of another who has faith in thinking god has created the world/people are simply wrong. I don't know anyone who would not take this offensively when being told that the way they've been raised to believe is invalid. I myself am quite religious and have faith in the bible, knowing the story of Adam and Eve to be true. However, I must agree with a post that was recently added to the discussion board in stating that evolution is the way in which things have changed over time, and who can deny that there hasn't been changes? Animals and people alike have been researched and proven to have physically adapted over long periods of time. Take the Aztecs for example. I have been to Mexico and visited the ruins there where people many years ago used to call home. The buildings are still standing and one aspect you can't help but notice is how short the door openings are. Even I, a younger adult, had to bend to be able to enter into the structures, and these doors were made for grown men. Living creatures have a way of adapting to their environment and this is why we have such diversity throughout the different cultures. But I must stand firm and say that I do not, by any means, believe in the evolutionary history saying that everything evolved from teeny tiny one celled organisms and over time turned into the beauty that we see in the world today. That, on the other hand, is a true miracle formed from God's lovely hands. :)

(2) F

The dictionary defines evolution as any process of formation or growth, or progressive change. I would define it as simply change over time. Many people hear the term evolution and immediately think back hundreds of years, or think of the controversy over whether or not evolution really exists. While I myself am a very religious person who does believe in creation at the beginning of time, I can't see how anyone could look around at the world they live in and not see that evolution is everywhere. Just because one believes that the world was initially created by a higher power doesn't mean that it hasn't evolved since then. Everything is changing all the time, even at this moment. We couldn't have gotten from the place where humans started to the place where we are right now if we hadn't changed or evolved in some way or another. So if that's true, why couldn't it be true that other species changed along with us after they were created? The answer is that they did change. Scientists have evidence of this which has been accumulated over many years. Change is something that has always been necessary for humanity to survive and for every other organism to survive as well. I believe that creation and evolution go hand in hand, and that it doesn't have to be one or the other. Both are necessary, and both continue to happen all the

time. Change over time will continue in the future, just like it always has. So though I believe in creation at the beginning, evolution is still occurring all around us, and it's never going to stop.

(3) F

Evolution is defined as "descent with modification; the idea that living species are descendants of ancestral species that were different from present-day ones; also the genetic changes in a population over generations." This definition come from Biology Concepts & Connections Sixth Edition textbook. I think this subject is a very controversial issue and there are many opinions and beliefs on this certain concept of evolution. The way people believe is also based on the background and how some people were raised as children and the families that they come from. This can also be a very touchy subject for some people who have strong beliefs about one thing and like to be very argumental about what they believe. Some people believe that humanity evolved a species of monkey there is some scientific proof that that could have happened. There is also the Big Bang Theory which is just a belief that maybe that is where the world came from. Also there is that the earth and everything on the earth was created by god. There are also probably a lot more theories out in the world these are just some bigger ones discussed and argued about a lot. But, there is no way to scientificl prove that any of this is true. My beliefs are based on how I was raised as an individual and I believe that the earth was created from god himself. I believe this from what I have been taught growing up from my parent and also reading a lot of the bible. I also believe that everyone is entitled to have there different opinions about this subject.

(4) F

This has always been an interesting topic to me especially since there are so many beliefs and ideas about the particular topic on evolution. It truly is deep, philosophical, creative, and mysterious simply because we honestly can't say exactly how evolution has happened. There are scientists that say gorillas have evolved into humans which makes sense due to the structures of our bodies however I don't completely agree. If that were true, just thinking about the survival of the fittest, then wouldn't there be less gorillas? Sure they are pretty smart and can survive in nature making them able to continue multiplying. With that being said, I pose the question of why haven't we found any humans born in a zoo or found in the wild? If gorillas have evolved into humans then would we be able to at least see the different stages of evolution through out the world through the variety of similar living species? As of right now we can't name the different stages (or different species of similar nature) gorillas would have to go through in order to become a human.

These are just some ideas I have thought about and have always questioned. I am not sure if I have ever or will ever truly and fully believe in evolution due to my religious beliefs, however this is what I have thought about and believe to be "believable" or at least interesting about evolution. But, I am also open minded and feel if someone had a good argument they could persuade me to feel differently about evolution.

(5) F

Evolution, the idea that living species are descendents of ancestral species that were different from present-day ones, or is defined as genetic changes in a population over generations." This definition of evolution is taken from the sixth edition of biology textbook. Evolution is a sticky situation between many scientists and many people these days. There are controversies over it everywhere in the world. There are some individuals who do not believe in evolution at all and some that do believe in it. There is always a disagreement on how everything first began. Some people believe in the Big Bang Theory and others believe god was the creation of everything. There are also many other theories out there in this world. Although, not one of these theories is absolutely correct. This is because no one has been able to scientifically prove how everything was first created and where it began. Some people think their ideas and opinions are correct while others may see their ideas and opinions as wrong. It all just depends on the type of background and knowledge a person has. It depends on how they were brought up and what their cultural and religious views are. I do, myself, believe in evolution. I do believe that organisms have evolved over time. But, I believe god was the first creator of everything. This is my opinion because of the type of background and religious customs I was brought up in.

(6) F

Evolution is the change in the genetic make-up of an animal from one generation to the next. Evolution is what has allowed the human race to become what it is today, and it is the reason most of us are here. Evolution allowed our ancestors to become stronger, smarter, and faster. It is the reason that we walk on our hind legs and the reason that we can communicate effectively with one another in hundreds of different languages. Without evolution there would be no society and no civilization. It is evolution that demanded man form bonds and family units with other members of the human race. Evolution is undeniable because it is apparent everywhere that you look.

Many people have religious or other kinds of issues with the theory of evolution but I think that it is important to look objectively at what the theory proposes. Evolution is something that makes sense to me personally. I feel that Darwin's theory is logical and well thought out, and his study of species and their process of evolution is hard to deny. Other aspects of evolution such as natural selection and survival of the fittest make sense on purely primal level. It seems obvious that the slow or weak animals are not going to survive as long as the fast or strong animals. This means that the slow animals will not have as much time to pass on their genes and so that species evolves to become faster and stronger. For me there is no denying evolution because it exists everywhere around us. It is the reason that we exist in the state that we do today.

(7) M

I agree with some of the prior posts saying that God created the earth, and everything on it including humans. I also agree that we could have come from those tiny little particles and evolved into what we have become. Now that I have said this, I believe that God did create the universe and everything in it, including those tiny molecules, and particles. So why would it not be possible to have those things that God made, evolve and grow throughout time? I believe that God created the universe and that over time we have evolved. I think that it is completely plausible that we (the tiny particle form) could have connected up with another tiny particle and began changing and growing. Everything over time will change or adapt. In the bible it says we were made from adams rib, but does it give a specific time of how long it took for this to occur? I think that anything is plausible and could be true. No one will ever really know how we came to be because if catholics were the first to lay claim to this idea that God made us than whos to say another religous group could not have thought of it first and put it in writing. I guess I dont really think to much about it. It will be exciting to see what is all said through this, and what people believe. If this doesnt make much sense let me know because I know what Im thinking I just cant write it out, and have it make sense.

(8) F

According to an online dictionary, evolution is defined as a gradual process in which something changes into a different and usually more complex or better form. I believe the evolution theory is the best way scientists can describe how organisms came to be. Evolution is the scientific view of the "seven day" religious theory. I am a catholic and have been taught that God created everything in seven days. However, as I have grown in both my faith and my own opinions I tend to think that evolution is the more reasonable explanation as to why humans, monkeys, fish, and bugs are the way they are. It does seems strange that a human evolved from an animal but at the same time it makes perfect sense when you look at the physical similarities between the two species. As the definition stated, it was just a long gradual process though genetic mutations in which the previous species changed into something that was different and more complex than before.

As I have previously stated, evolution is a scientific theory. This theory has been able to be backed with years of research that proves it to be relatively a true statement. Therefore, without the evolution of the organisms in the past there may not be new organisms in the future. And perhaps without evolution I would not be here with the rest of mankind. Essentially, we are still evolving today with the rest of nature. This evolution is the blueprint for the future.

(9) F

Most people nowadays, and certainly almost all biologists, would support the theory of Evolution as they work from day to day trying to comprehend the logic behind this idea. They focus on the innate details of animals such as monkeys and chimps, and study them to see how humans evolved from them. Biologist think in terms of how the world we live in now would not exist if things in the atmosphere had not crashed into each other billions of

years ago, creating bacteria, organisms, and eventually mammals. Although these ideas seem very factual to most, to me they are preposterous. I cannot say that I think we, humans evolved from monkeys or any other animals that a biology teacher might convince me to believe. I think students in all sorts of classroom settings around the world are forced to learn about an idea or concept such as evolution, and eventually some start to believe it, whether they originally did, or not. For me, I think that if students choose not to participate in an activity or listen to a lecture on Evolution, then that is their own personal choice. My personal belief is that we come from a greater power and were simply put on this Earth to follow in the footsteps of that person. Yet, according to the U.S. Constitution, if I were to talk about my beliefs in school, I could get suspended or severely punished. How is this any different than a teacher talking about his or her own personal beliefs to their students in a classroom?

(10) F

Evolution has allowed organisms to survive our millions and millions of years. Without it, many organisms might not be here today. It has allowed organisms to change their physical makeup in order to survive. As Darwin called the evolutionary theory "descent with modification," organisms have modified in order to survive. Every species wishes to survive, so in order to fulfill that goal they adapt to their surroundings. These adaptations cause new traits of an organisms to develop. These traits get passed down to future generations and over time you can see physical changes happen to species.

To some people, evolution can be very controversial. Those who have a keep faith in God tend to reject the idea of it. They believe God created our world in seven days and they have every right to believe that. Many scientists tend to accept the opposite explanation of how our world came to be. The theory of evolution seems very realistic, however, it is only a theory and even though we find facts to the support the theory, some day the theory could be tested false. Darwin's explanation of evolution is very logical and it could very well be the reason for our life on Earth. Every organism doesn't want to end its life, so as I said earlier, an organism will adapt to it's environment. These adaptations can be physical, such as growing claws to cling to trees, or adaptations can be genetic, for example fish living in saltwater instead of freshwater. Overall, it is evident that evolution has had an impact on our world and it is happening today.

(11) F

Professor Janovy, I don't know if I can do this in 250 words or not, but I will do my best to keep it short. I grew up in a strict conservative Baptist home, graduated from a Christian high school and even attended Bob Jones University for a year. I was raised by my mom and stepdad; my stepdad happens to be a Baptist minister. My background is creationism with very little evolution taught.

This past summer, I took an *Introduction to Anthropology* course where I learned so many new things in Anthropology. There **IS** a fossil record of more than one "missing link." Have any of you ever heard of the Leakeys, *Australopithecines*, *Homo habilis*, *Homo rudolfensis* or how about *Homo ergaster*? Google them! There is a whole family who has spent their lives searching for fossils in Africa and has found at least **two** different forms of early man within the last 50 years. Is there "the" link as creationists like to insist upon? No, of course not! Evolution is a process. We don't know how long it takes for an organism to evolve, but we see its evidences every day. Look at our own society and domestication of animals. Humans have evolved since Columbus founded the Americas. We've learned how to raise cattle to be bigger with better cuts of beef. We've been able to manipulate crops to grow faster and taller. That's all evolution in some form or another.

Evolution to me is a theory on our beginnings. Evolving from apes makes us no less human or less unique. I believe that there is evidence all around us that proves evolution is real and continually happening as a process. Evolution for me, taught me how to think for myself. Through studying what evolution is and the evidences of it, gave me a new appreciation for my college education as well as an appreciation for a large brain and the ability to walk upright!

Evolution to humanity is unfortunately a divisive topic in our world today. Currently, **only 40%** of Americans believe in the theory of evolution! That's a surprisingly low number and that bothers me. Are we so enveloped into our religions that we cannot accept and appreciate the world of science? I struggled with how to write this essay since I knew many of my fellow classmates might be offended by my stance. Personally, I think that the miss-education of Americans is the goal of a certain group(s) of people to control the masses. Let's face

it, religion is big business and there is a political influence that goes with that. If we disprove the creationism story and prove evolution, where would that leave religion, our churches, Ann Coulter and Rush Limbaugh?

(12) F

To me evolution means how the world came to be. My personal definition of evolution has a combination of both the religious and the scientific theories. In the bible it said God created heaven and earth in seven days but it doesn't state the definition of a day so a day could be for as long as God wanted it to be. If one looks more closely at the comparisons between the two they would find that there not so different. In Genesis the very first thing God did was say "Let there be light" and so there was. In the world of science the first thing ever in the history of the world was the Big Bang Theory and the result of this was stars and light.

So seeing how this matches up let take a closer look at evolution and how close science and religion really are. The bible reads "let the land produce vegetation" and science claims that plants were one of the first living organisms after bacteria to populate the earth. God said "let the water teem with living creatures and let birds fly above the earth" and science claims that amphibians were the first living animal on earth and then reptiles and then birds evolved from reptiles. The bible then claims "let the land produce living creatures" and science admits to the mammal came next in the serious of evolution. Finally God says "let us make man in our image in our likeness and let them rule over [all of the living things of the earth]" and the final step in the evolutionary process in science is the evolution of humans.

This is important to humanity because understanding both concepts, the scientific theory and the religious theory, will help everybody understand where everybody else is coming from and will lessen the debate on science versus religion.

(13) F

Evolution has become part of our everyday lives. Whether you believe in evolution or creationism, you can see that things have evolved over time. For example we made domestic animals from wild animals way back when. Even though this is not a form of natural evolution, organisms still evolved. Evolution is defined as the change of traits from one generation to the next, often times to ensure the species' survival. Some say that species that have evolved so much over time and hardly resemble the original should be considered a new species. I can't say I believe that humans actually evolved from previous apes, but I do think that there has been evolution of humans to an extent. Although many people think of evolution as a theory, it is not one. Rather it is a process observed over time. Evolution does not reach for any certain goal. The changes that organisms experience can be either good bad or neutral. Once evolution has happened there is no going back. I think there is a significant resemblance between evolution and creationism. Looking at the timeline of both, one can tell that certain things happened in a certain order. These things didn't necessarily happen at the same time, but they are still very similar.

Evolution is important to me, because it has forced me to view the topic from a different point of view. I have learned to look at evolution more scientifically than i would have had before. Evolution is important to the human population, because we have all experienced it; whether it has been with our pets, the crops we grow, or with ourselves.

(14) F

In biology, evolution is the change in the genetic material of a population of organisms from one generation to the next. Though changes produced in any one generation are normally small, differences that accumulate with each generation and can, over time, causing a substantial change in the population, a process that can result in the emergence of new species. Biological evolution is not simply a matter of change over time. Lots of things change over time: trees lose their leaves, mountain ranges rise and erode, but they aren't examples of biological evolution because they don't involve descent through genetic inheritance. The central idea of biological evolution is that all life on Earth shares a common ancestor, just as you and your cousins share a common grandmother. Evolutions central ideas are based on life with a history. What I think about evolution is that all people come from something and by that something I mean animals. I think that apes or monkeys play a big role in what we evolve from in the world. Apes have similar things to humans. Such as their structure, physical characteristics, maybe even personalities in some people. They do have some differences though, like for example they cannot talk, don't eat what we eat, and have a different staggering walk or run. Research has found evolution through forms from fossil

findings. This is interesting to me because, what would the first person that found a fossil of a huge footprint think? How did they come up with ideas that it is a human?

(15) F

Growing up with a Catholic education I was always taught the creation story, and that that was how humans came to be. Throughout my years at a Catholic school, however, I was introduced to the theory of evolution but was always skeptical as to which I was suppose to believe. It wasn't until my freshman year of high school that the priest at our school told us that the stories in the bible aren't to be taken literally. To be honest, I was relieved when he told us this because I had wanted to be able to believe evolution; it was simply more logical and made sense to me. Evolution is the process of changes in growth over time. Evolution is important because it shows how organisms have changed throughout history and become what they are today. It shows humans, in particular, who our closest ancestors are. Because of evolution, many species become extinct. This happens when one animal evolves and others it associates with don't, often through survival of the fittest. Survival of the fittest is one species in a certain environmental habitat inherits characteristics that benefit it in that environment, whereas other species cannot survive due to certain characteristics that they have. For example: arctic hares have evolved and a white coat is now a characteristic that they inherit. This characteristic trait is used to camouflage the arctic hare from any predators. Evolution is important because it clearly explains how humans came to be what they are today.

(16) F

The evidence of evolution is undeniable and nature requires animals to compete in order to survive. To me, evolution means progression; it means that species are always advancing. With evolution in mind, I have found that it is important to be observant of characteristics throughout populations that lead to clues of the genes that will be most successful. Through observation, we can get an idea of what species will evolve into the future, what species we can expect to be around for time to come and what changes certain species would have to make in order to survive. It is interesting to think of how humans will be able relate to other species in the future that will evolve such as monkeys and other close relatives. To me, evolution is hints of traits that our children's children and so on will inherit.

I believe that it is important to not exclude this theory even if you believe in another one. Even if you do not agree with every part of this theory, there is so much that can be learned from it. For humanity in general, it is important to know what changes would need to be made within a species in order to survive, whether they can change or not, so we have an idea of what to expect from animals for time to come. The future of life on the earth in a few million years is a mystery, but its future can be seen through the foreshadowing of evolution.

(17) F

Evolution and what it means to me, I believe in evolution that everything that was once here or that is here now evolved from something else to turn into what it is now. This means that the whole human race has developed from one specific species and has evolved into what we are now. Years pass and we change with the surroundings. How else would we have developed if we did not believe in evolution? The evidence is clearly present that evolution is the only way we could have happened. This whole topic means that we are going to evolve to who knows in the next 25 million years. We don't know, because we don't know what our world will be in that time frame.

Evolution to the humanity in general means that as we change and the society changes the race changes with it. We might get taller, shorter, and more intelligent all depending on what we need to survive. It is a never-ending cycle that people are going to adapt to be more efficient so if we didn't have evolution we would all be so inefficient and not be able to adapt to our surroundings. Our race would die and then it would just become a battle to survive. The humanity in general changes itself to make ourselves more adapting but we can't do this all on our own. It means a lot that evolution continues doing its job and helping us stay adapted to this planet.

(18) F

According to biology online, evolution is the change in genetic composition of a population over successive generations, which may be caused by natural selection, inbreeding, hybridization, or mutation. I attended a Catholic school for most of my life and I was always taught the creation story was how humans came to the earth. As I grew older the creation story became harder and harder for me to believe, especially when a priest once told me that most of the Bible stories were not real. The stories were intended to just help explain the world and God. I just didn't think that the creation story was logical. I am now taking an anthropology class and this has deepened my belief in evolution. In class we have discussed the primates from which humans may have evolved from and how long it took for it to happen. A lot of it has to do with natural selection, as one species more evolved and better fitted for how the earth has changed starts taking over and the other species who can't keep up slowly become extinct. This is important for humanity because it explains our ancestry and how we came to be. Evolution explains why humans and certain primates have so many similarities and different by a matter of a couple of genes. This cannot be purely coincidental. I think evolution is important because it explains how old the earth is and how animals change and evolve over many generations to become a more fully developed species.

(19) F

Everything changes. That's the essence of evolution. In our biology classes, we learn the definition of evolution as being the change in the genetic material of a species from one generation to the next. Though this process of small changes in generations, differences accumulate over time until new species emerge. It is then ridiculous for people to fear or reject the idea of evolution, just as it is unreasonable to fear change. The human race has depended on social change, so why would it be a stretch to believe that the human race has also depended on biological change? Throughout our history, our social world has been in constant change. Small changes in our society are constantly adding up until we can see a major difference over a large period of time. For example, do you see any significant change in the fashion world since 2008 or 2007? For most of us, the answer is probably 'no'. But do you see differences in what people wear today versus what they wore in 1950 or 1800? If you can't then you probably don't know much about history. It would then make sense that humans' bodies are making tiny changes in order to adapt, although the process takes such a long time to see the differences. Unlike our social world, biological change takes an extremely long amount of time to accumulate noticeable differences. However, that doesn't mean it's not happening, even now. The world is a very different place than it was millions of years ago. Logically it would make sense that our bodies were different as well, and as the world changed we adapted.

(20) F

Evolution is a word that would start a big dispute on how Earth, humanity, and life came to be. Do you believe in creation or evolution? It is possible that some people may even believe in a little bit of both. With evolution being basically the backbone of biology, it is safe to say that most biologists and people studying in the science field believe in evolution. However, many people believe in creation because of their religion and beliefs.

So what is evolution? Because I have studied evolution in the past, when I think of evolution I think of survival of the fittest. Whoever has the most favorable traits will be able to survive and reproduce, passing on those favorable traits. However I do not only think about evolution as strictly changing genetically, but also I think that we can change spiritually or emotionally. Living in the world today I think that our spiritual or emotional evolution is progressing more and more if we let it. I think that it is more a choice to evolve this way. Life brings us so many new messages and ways to look at things. Although when it comes to evolving this way you do have a choice whether you want to open yourself to these new things or not.

When it comes to answer the question myself, whether I believe in evolution or creation I am lenient. Because of my religion and beliefs I do believe in creationism; however I also do believe in some ideas of evolution.

(21) F

What I have learned about evolution is that it is one kind of species changing over time into a new kind of species. It develops new characteristics while at the same time keeping some of the old ones. It also is just something I learned in biology class because I had to, I do not necessarily believe in all of the aspects of the theory of evolution. In biology we learn that we as humans have evolved from monkeys. I am a firm believer in God being the creator of the Earth, but know that that is only a theory to some other people. The part of evolution that I do

believe in is that we adapt to survive. But not from a monkey into a human, more of when it is winter we wear warmer clothing to keep our body temperature up so we do not freeze to death. And then in the summer we wear less clothing so our bodies' do not overheat. The definition of evolution is "any process of formation or growth". This does not necessarily mean growth from one type of animal to another (i.e. monkey to human), but just any type of growth. There is an evolution of time and language as well as other types of evolution. To some of humanity it may mean the evolution of our species and how we might change over time, to others it means the change in our species in and of itself. There are several theories, but I believe that God created the Earth and everything in it.

(22) F

Well to be perfectly honest I was brought up catholic, I went to an Catholic elementary and high school. I have an uncle who is a priest and an aunt who is a nun, we are a large Irish Catholic family. At 15 I converted to Missouri Synod Lutheran so ingeneral I had not had alot of exposure to the concept of evolution except to be told only evolution was a sinful thing and those who thought of it should and would be punished by God. Now as an adult that is not being told what to think I believe in evolution but not all of it because I also believe in creationism. Evolution is just a word, and according to Webster "the process by which different kinds of animals and plants develope from earlier forms", well that kind of sounds like me and everything else on this planet that has adapted to survive. As human beings for thousands of years have done that. Our enviroment has changed and we have changed with it as all species need to do " the survival ofthe fitest" thing has come ito play. As humans we affect everything on the planet just being us, so naturally because of us some species do not survive but alot have evolved with us and met the challenges of our enviroment. This does not have to mean we evolved from single cell organisms in some prehistoric swamp, but it can mean we are all conected in some basic way. I once read a paper on "MITOCHONDRIAL EVE" this proposed that a small population of modern humans evolved in Africa about 150,000 years ago. Giving evidence that all humans are decendents of one female, not conclusive but it does show that humans have evolved and through science and our own will have biologicaly and hopefully emotionally evolved. Humanity has no choice but to evolve as our world changes our adjustments even biological adjustments must continue, or there is no reason to continue to argue if evolution or creationism is how we started.

(23) F

I am a Catholic with a strong belief in God and have a strong religious background. I believe that God created man and the first two people being Adam and Eve. I do believe that evolution does mean to change, and over time humans as well as animals do change to adapt and survive within their environment. I have a hard time believing that humans evolved from sea creatures that grew legs, and turned into apes that eventually evolved into humans. Although I do see evolution as a progression that takes place in all species over time, that need to adapt to their surroundings and have traits that will best satisfy them for future encounters with nature, I also see that humans have changed greatly, maybe not in appearance, but inside from the time of Adam and Eve. I look at the process of evolution really as survival of the fittest, and the genetic material that is passed on from one generation to another in an organism's species. This being, strong traits will survive, and the weak ones will not make it, and with this being said, I believe that this is how some animals become extinct. If their genes are not the strongest for the environment they are living in, they will not be able to survive against predators. Humans have many different views of how we evolved, but one thing that I believe most theories have is that change is necessary in order for survival. Depending on the time periods that have come and that are to come, humans will change due to food availability, resources and many other biological species on earth. Evolution is really the forecast of what is to be in the future of humans and organisms.

(24) F

In biology, evolution is change in the genetic material of a population of organisms from one generation to the next. These changes occur slowly but eventually turn into big changes. Genes are passed down from generation to generation. This is how traits are inherited. Evolution is a result of varied traits being passed on. This can be from gene mutations, the passing of genes throughout different populations, or etcetera. Genes can

become fixated. This is when alleles are either deleted from the species or they replace a previous allele. This plays a great role in evolution. This is how variations occur and stick causing the species to change.

Natural selection plays a great role in evolution. Species breed in order to benefit themselves. When they find breeding combinations that are successful they tend to stick to them. It is essential to survival. So, if certain species have been breeding, and for some reason this combination produces unsuccessful offspring, they will change breeding habits until they find a successful combination. Reproductive success is very important.

Evolution greatly impacts our lives and the lives of many species. Without it, we would fail to adapt to our environment and it would be hard for us to survive. It made us what we are today. It is thought that we evolved from great apes. Human DNA is 98.4% identical to that of a chimpanzee. If we had not evolved, we would have never been able to do half the stuff we can do now. Evolution has played a very positive role in our lives.

(25) F

The Scientific Theory of Evolution is the change of genetic material in organisms from one generation to another. Over time differences can occur in each generation and cause changes in the population. Those changes can eventually result in new species, all descending from a common ancestor. Evolution is a touchy subject with many people; everyone has different views of how they think the world came about. Some people feel that evolution is the reason why we are all here today; they think that the human species has been generated through millions of year's worth of genetic mutations and thus becoming the superior race on the planet. One may argue that evolution does not exist and that it all started because god made it happen. People believe this because of the bible and how they themselves were raised. For many the thought of the superior human species evolving from one initial organism is hard to grasp and even further how was that one organism created? No one will ever really know what happen, we will all have to rely on our own theories. I feel myself that god created life, but I also cannot ignore the scientific evidence of evolution. Therefore I believe that god plays an important role in the evolution process. Since there is no scientific evidence of any of this my beliefs are based on how I was raised. I also believe that everyone is and should be entitled to there own opinions on the topic of evolution.

(26) M

I was raised in a very strict Catholic family but over the years I have seen many things that test the Catholic faith. Evolution is one of those things that my great grandparents, grandparents and a large number of old fashioned Catholics look at as a way to test the bible. In our schools it would be unheard of to teach creation, but it's not unheard of to talk about the big bang theory. Evolution is one of those things that people could argue about for a lifetime and in fact many people do, but biological evolution I talking about much more than where humans came from or when the world started. The main point with biological evolution is that everything came from a common ancestor and over time we evolved and changed into what we are today. We even see these evolutionary changes in our religions. Another example for instance is that over the years agriculture has evolved, we have found a way to grow crops faster and produce more yields than ever. This is the same evolution that we are talking about when we think of the evolution of any species. We improve and get better than we were before. Things are evolving everyday and always changing. We don't always notice or see the changes but they are happening all around us. Evolution has made us what we are today! Literally so we should embrace it because it is always happening and we can't do much about it.

(27) F

Evolution according to the Biology-Online Dictionary is, "The change in genetic composition of a population over successive generations, which may be caused by natural selection, inbreeding, hybridization, or mutation."

Evolution is a very controversial issue in society today. I do not see how you cannot believe in it. The evidence is there. Maybe there are a few facts missing, and this is only known as a theory, but the evidence I have been shown so far is very convincing. Over this last summer I went to a museum in D.C and saw bones that changed from a small bug, into a human. After seeing this, I completely agree with this theory. This theory is not

accepted by many religious people because they believe God created man and earth. I do understand why they feel this way because there is no evidence that says that evolution did in fact occur.

In my high school biology class we had many debates on why we would evolve? Why aren't things still evolving today? In my opinion we are. We may not notice the change because it will take millions of years. I think if we really did evolve, we kept the traits that are important to us, and the things that we needed most are what evolved. For example our fingers grew longer and are easier to move now because we really need them. Our legs evolved into what they are so we can walk, balance, and have quickness.

Of course this is only my personal opinion and I am sure many people would read this and think I am nuts. However, the evidence I have witnessed, the articles I have read, and the museums I have visited, really have changed my perspective.

(28) F

Over time, evolution has changed us into who we are today. Although it is hard to tell how our generation is different from that of our parents, it is. There are little changes within each generation that better equip us for the present environment. This is known as natural selection. It is evident this idea is true because we have learned to adapt to the diminishing land and farm areas by making processed and manufactured foods. If we did not get jobs, we could not earn money to get food. Thus, by natural selection, the well-to-do usually stay rich and the poor find it hard to come out of their slum. This is how it works for all creatures, just different circumstances.

Evolution began at the beginning of time. Human kind was believed to have started out as ape-like sapiens. An example of evolution is that now humans walk upright and do not have a lot of hair all over their bodies. This is probably because since we wear clothes to keep us warm and protect us from the environment, we no longer have the need for such long hair or as much of it.

Evolution has also led to all of our intelligent and technological advances. It is the reason we have created heaters, cars, refrigerators, and the list could go on for days. Evolution is important to me and all of humanity because without it, we could not survive in this world today. Because of evolution, we can go to the doctor when we get sick, we can go to the grocery store when we are hungry, and so on. Without evolution, we would be stuck living in caves and our life spans would be much shorter and our quality of life would be much worse.

(29) M

Evolution is a very mysterious subject. Evolution is the change of organisms from one generation to the next, according to the dictionary. To me evolution is kind of a controversial subject. I sort of believe that it takes place, but I also believe in god's word and follow the bible, which says that god created all life, including man and women. If this is true than humans could not have evolved from the smallest life form to what they are now, which is evolution.

I think that many people believe in evolution simply because it gives them an answer to why they're here other than believing that some god that cant be seen created them. Today's society is known for the saying, seeing is believing, meaning that if you can't see something than it can't be true. Since I am a Christian I try not to get too caught up in evolution since it contradicts my beliefs, although some of the facts that are shown with evolution are very interestingly believable. When someone asks me if I believe in evolution I usually say that I don't believe in evolution, but that I believe in change of organisms to adapt to their surrounding. Such as how certain aquatic species have adapted to living on land and vice-versa for land species.

All in all Evolution is something that people can use to explain why life is in the universe. I just don't believe that it started from a single organism. If that was so how did that one organism get here? As much as I think about it I always come up with the same answer that evolution couldn't have happened and that some kind of god or creator made us.

(30) F

In the dictionary, they define evolution as a process that results in heritable changes in a population spread over many generations. Evolution to me means that an organism isn't going to always look, act, or behave in the same manner as it would have when it first evolved. I believe that if it wasn't for evolution we wouldn't be who we are today, we would be just like the first existing humans. Evolution happens over a long period of time, so as the changes are happening it is not that noticeable.

Mating is said to be one of the most important “ideas” in evolution. Sex adds variations in the genes of the organisms after mating, which creates different evolved generations. It is said that all organisms on earth have come from the same animal tree. This is hard for me to understand for the fact that many organisms are very different in many different ways and for the fact that they all may have come from the same tree is strange to me.

We as humans, are different from animals because we have a higher IQ. Animals are smart but they don't have the distinct ability to do what is right and wrong. If we were like the animals outside of the human mind, we wouldn't be doing the right things all the time. Our minds would tell us to do things that keep us alive and keep us satisfied such as; lie, cheat, steal, and kill, but we as humans do not do this for we know that it is wrong. Many say that humans are like gorillas and that is who we evolved from. If this is true, then why do we do the things we do when the gorillas do not. Not always satisfying ourselves but doing what we know is right. If it is true, then it would have to be because we as humans have evolved into a different, more intelligent, organism.

(31) M

Evolution is a confusing and conflicting word. It is the idea of developing from earlier forms, or deriving from other species. This is exactly what it means to me. It is one of the basic principles of biology, and whether I believe in the topic itself or not is quite controversial within myself as a person, not to mention society. I believe that evolution is something that scientist believe to be true. I necessarily don't believe it to be true, but I believe that there is some evidence to support it therefore I accept it as a valid 'theory'.

I may not believe that it is true, but I do take in account that other people do so I open my mind and allow their opinion to take in account. Whether I believe in it or not is not important. I only accept it as a biological stand point and use it for such purposes. I will not shut out the idea, because it is basic to understanding how others think. There are many examples of this, even in such things as politics. People may be apart of the same political group and believe different things. It is these different beliefs that give new ideas to further the country and allowing their idea to be heard helps us as a country to become better. I don't think that comparing evolution and religion is right. Saying that one is right and the other is wrong would be absurd. When someone is to say that one is right over the other, it is closing the mind and narrowing it. Once again, whether I believe in evolution or not is not important. It simply comes down to the fact that scientist believe it to be true, so I will take in their opinion to gain new knowledge of another point of view. Asking someone if they believe in evolution has no purpose, it only forces them to choose a side and causes conflict. If our society could take in both accounts, whether they believed in it or not, they would be able to gain knowledge from both sides and it would strengthen what they believe.

Choosing will only weaken and anger people, and that is not the purpose of science. Science is about new understanding. Listening and seeing others views is connected to that. 'Believing' in their point of views is insignificant, the real term that should be addressed is whether we understand why others believe it to be true. In society it is about a half and half split between these two ideas. My main point of this paper is to honestly say that believing is irrelevant, because asking us what we 'believe' has nothing to do with what we can 'understand' and that's why I honestly think this paper itself is irrelevant because it is creating conflicts. I will not denounce that evolution is true or not. I will not say that religion is true or not. I will only say that I understand both views, and what I personally believe (which really shouldn't effect others). Having us choose a side plays no roles into anything, and is not in any form scientific. Science is about understanding, so why can't scientists understand religion (whether they believe or not), or religion understand science (whether they believe or not). By understanding I mean accepting that others believe that point of view, whether you do or not.

I have said it several times but I will say it once more to get my point across. Whether we believe or not in evolution is irrelevant, it's about understanding the other peoples point of view and using that information to gain new knowledge. Not to provoke controversy but create a common goal of sharing information and giving us all a connection. It has no play in what we believe because either way we are all here right now and were just trying to understand a fraction of what we are and how we came to be, and saying someone is wrong and someone else is right is saying that we already know the answer to that question and we don't. There is evidence everywhere but the thing is we will probably never know the answer because our minds are not meant to and cannot grasp it, so I say understanding each other's views is key to understanding ourselves.

(32) F

When most people think of evolution, they think of animals and other organisms that have grown and changed over the course of millions of years. But I like to focus on another, less examined proof of evolution: language. I love language and want to be a speech pathologist, helping others learn to use this powerful tool. When I study language, I am amazed by what I find. It has grown and changed, it has *evolved* into the complex system it is today. Human beings have gone from simple sounds and gestures to writing symbols that represent words to complex alphabets and rules that define each language. Many languages are also interrelated, further illustrating this intricate process of evolution.

This evolution of language is also proof of the evolution of human beings in general. The ways in which we think and the ways in which we communicate give evidence of remarkable progress due to evolution. The human race needs to realize the significance of this and needs to learn to appreciate the advances we have made thus far. If all human beings can be instilled with a true appreciation for the evolution of language, I believe more people would be less inclined to be prejudiced against others just because of a difference in language. No language is “better” than another; each one has specific characteristics that make it unique. And it is this uniqueness that gives the human race its beautiful diversity; something in which we should all take pride.

(33) F

When I took advanced bio in high school we spent almost a whole semester talking about evolution and studied the different theories that scientist have come up with. One of the main topics we focused on was how humans were said to of evolved from primates over the many years. We had to look at the different body forms compared to apes and humans and some of the appearance differences I remember seeing were how the slouched over ape slowly turned into a straight back standing human and that the huge protruding jaws and foreheads of the apes slowly got smaller so that the head was equally balanced out with the rest of the body, which allowed for that straight standing human instead of the hunched over ape walking on all four appendages.

Another way that we had to compare the primates to humans was depending on where the humans moved to from the out of Africa theory, which was based on the idea that all humans started in Africa but then later immigrated to other parts of the world because of reasons like food shortage, temperature changes, or maybe even sicknesses. Since they immigrated to different parts of the world they then adapted to the new environment they encountered and that’s how we got the different skin colors, hair textures, physical features like big bones compared to petite body structures, and everything else like different languages. There were the cavemen and extreme hunters that lived in the northern colder areas of the world who had hair all over them to help with the warmth and they also had the huge bodies, because they needed bigger bones for all the massive muscles that they had for hunting the larger animals. Then in the warmer climates humans seemed to be darker skinned and had less hair covering their bodies.

(34) F

What evolution means to me is the changing of a specific species over time. These species modify for different reasons because of anything from adjusting to climate change to available food sources. These species change to survive in an ever changing world, over years they will look differently, act differently, and even eat different foods.

For some organisms evolution takes much less time than others. Virus’ and bacteria seem to be two families of organisms that transform at a faster rate than say...frogs, or humans. Viruses and bacteria can mutate at extreme rates, they change so that they can survive the antibiotics, anti-virals, and vaccines that are used against them, to prevent them and to kill them. They reproduce at a quick rate and therefore evolve almost just as fast. Pathogens are proof that evolution does exist.

I believe that it is possible to believe in both creationism and evolution. In religion in church I was taught creationism, God created earth. In the bible he created earth in seven days and then there is also the story of Adam and Eve. Those stories though, are just that, stories, their main purpose is to get the point across that God created earth, is doesn’t matter how you believe he did that, as long as you believe he did. This means that you can believe in both evolution and creation, as long as you believe that as well as creating the one common ancestor, he also caused evolution. You shouldn’t have to believe in one or the other.

(35) F

Evolution is extremely important to all organisms on earth. Evolution is any process or formation of growth or development. I think evolution is very important and it is because of evolution that we are all who we are today. I think that eventually all of the organism on the planet will have changed and evolved into something different before the world ends. It was because of evolution that we are who we are today. If it were not for evolution we would all still be monkeys or have more characteristics of monkeys. All organisms on our planet evolved from something at one time, and if that species has not evolved into something else yet it will eventually.

The topic of evolution is a pretty controversial topic. Not everyone believes in evolution and not everyone thinks we evolved from monkeys either. Although there is some proof that we humans did evolve a long time ago, some people are stubborn about believing it.

Now science and the bible have completely different views about evolution. Of course science thinks everything evolved from something, and the earth was not created in seven days. The bible states that God created the earth in seven days and God put man and women on the earth. There is valid evidence that the earth got how it is because of both evolution and because of God. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion. Evolution has been a controversial topic for many years and will continue to be for a long time.

(36) F

The idea of evolution is important to society, and all humans in many important ways. Evolution refers to the gradual growth of something. This explains why the term evolution is so important because it refers to plants, animals, humans, and any other living thing. Evolution describes the process of development. Meaning, the passing down of genes from one generation to the next. Evolution controls all factors that make people the way that they are. Dealing with variation between the genes, things that are inherited, and the different species that are in society as a whole.

Darwin's theory of evolution explains how everything is passed down from one time period to the next and it all is related to each other. Even things that have nothing in common are related as they pass down characteristics from generation to generation. The world changes as a result of all of the variations in the evolution process.

Also the idea of natural selection is important to mention when discussing evolution. Natural selection basically discusses the idea that creatures are alive in the world because of the way that they adapt and are able to reproduce to keep the species from becoming extinct.

To this day, when I think about the word evolution and what it means to me, my mind goes immediately to the image of the monkey who turns into a cave man, who then turns into a man. This image shows the way that things evolve, as well as the process needed in order to get to the final product and how the final product varies from one generation to the next. Evolution from my perspective means, constantly transforming and developing into something new, or a new variation of something coming from another thing that is already existing. Whether that means a new species being produced, or an individual evolving into a different model of themselves. Evolution is taking place at all times, all around the world for everyone to see and that is why it is important for all individuals in society including me.

(37) F

Evolution is defined according to our text book, as: the descent with modification; the idea that living species are descendants of ancestral species that were different from present day ones; also the genetic changes in a population over generations. This happens due to genes that become mutated, or when genes recombine in diverse ways during the creation of new people from existing ones, also known as reproduction. Evolution happens on the genetic level, and then is passed from one generation to the next because the changed alleles are passed on to their offspring. One can see the changes from these genes, in an individual's phenotype. Charles Darwin came up with the idea of evolution. He thought that all living species are descendants of their ancestral species. He then came up with natural selection, which according to our text book is: a process in which organisms with certain inherited characteristics are more likely to survive and reproduce than are organisms with other characteristics. Darwin also believed that new species could evolve as a result of the changes over time. On the topic of evolution, comes the big bang theory, where scientists believe that the earth and all other planets were created by the swirling of dust.

First off, I do not in any way, believe in evolution or the big bang theory. I believe that God himself, created us through his own image and likeness. Second, I find it very hard to understand that humans came from small organisms, but just evolved over time.

(38) M

Evolution to me is a term that is highly exalted. What I mean by this is that if there was proven evidence that evolution was not true, the science world would somehow work it into how it compliments evolution. They really don't want to find anything that will disprove it. Evolution is simply how organisms adapted to the environment around them, nothing more. I feel that it has been so highly exalted that it even though there are scientific theories that show that there is a higher power that orchestrated all of this you do not hear about it, you're not taught about it, you're only taught about one theory when it is just as valid as any other respected theory. Why aren't we taught the others?

Evolution to others is a theory that answers millions of people's questions of where did I come from? And why am I here? But it leaves many feeling insignificant. I believe everybody at some point in their life asks those questions, and to some extent will search it out. This theory to many will bring insignificance to their life and doesn't fill that void that there has to be more.

There is just so much more important things happening in this world today that we need to bring our attention to those things, and set aside these differences and unite with a common goal. We don't live in the past and we need take notice of the present were we can change the world today.

(39) M

As the basics of evolution are likely already being covered, I would like to address the implications of evolution on the current human species. Although some may state that humans are largely immune to the effects of niches and selection pressure in general, I would argue that, similarly to when marine mammals and terrestrial mammals diverged in evolutionary history and were therefore no longer subject to the same list of requirements for survival, humans and those species with whom we share an evolutionary background have simply suffered a different array of selection pressures. This idea of selection pressure within human society, however, does not necessarily correspond to success within society, as assessed by society itself, as Darwinistic evolutionary theory states that survival entails the passing on of one's genetic material on to future generations of the species.

Success, in human society, and by our own standards, is generally considered earning a large amount of money, providing assistance in some way to a volume of individuals, or becoming famous in some form. None of these, however, truly cause a significantly increased likelihood of breeding; in fact, such achievements often correspond to decreased time availability for dating, and thus, procreation. Conversely, unemployment, underdevelopment of the prefrontal cortex, alcoholism, and as a result, decreased sexual restraint, as well as imprudence with regard to the application of the various forms of contraception, all increase a human individual's resistance to selection pressures, and therefore increase the likelihood that said individual will, at some point in life, pass on genetic material to future generations.

As such, the selection pressure placed upon human beings in society at the current time seems to be many of the same things that society values: prudence, intelligence, sobriety, and success. Let us hope, for the sake of societal advancement, that Fred Phelps and his anti-evolution cohorts are correct, and that Darwin was mistaken; may God have mercy on our genes.

(40) F

I think evolution is a very complex and interesting topic. There is strong evidence supporting the theory of evolution, but at that same time, it's just that-a theory. There are many aspects that I don't understand and some things that are hard for me to put together.

For instance, I'm a Christian and the idea that humans evolved from apes doesn't fit in with what I've grown up believing-that humans were created by God. Also, I don't understand what causes evolution. I understand the process of natural selection and adaptation, since it makes sense that organisms better suited toward their environment are more likely to survive and reproduce, but life on Earth is so complex and varied and I don't see how all life supposedly evolved from single-cell organisms over billions of years. What caused ancient fish-like

animals and whales to grow legs and move to land? How would apes change enough to become modern-day humans?

Still, the historical evidence is striking. There is a display at Morrill Hall that shows the DNA make up of humans and chimps, and there are only a few differences. Fossils show that whales and bats and humans all have similar bone structure between their fins, wings, and hands. Also there are many modern examples of evolution, like the growing resistance of bacteria to certain medicines, and the mutating of viruses like HIV and the flu into different strains. All these examples support the idea of evolution. I think all the different perspectives are very interesting, and I don't think there is one clear-cut answer regarding evolution.

(41) F

Evolution is defined as a change in biological material of a population of organisms from one generation to the next. Or more simply put, evolution is descent with modification. Evolution follows the quote "what doesn't kill us only makes us stronger." Humans have evolved overtime to become stronger, smarter, and more civilized. Humans have evolved into 2 legged walkers, verbal communicators, inventors, and much more, all thanks to evolution. To say that evolution hasn't paid a part in human development would be a lie and frankly a quite stupid statement.

The topic of evolution is often heatedly debated between scientists and religious figures. My personal point of view integrates both the theory of evolution and the theory of God's creation. I believe that, as the bible states, God created man out of Adam's rib, but who is that from Adam's rib humans didn't further adapt and evolve? The bible does not specifically state what Adam or Eve looked like, so who can reject theories of evolution from Adam and Eve? Perhaps they were ape-like, and evolved into hind leg walkers, talkers, humans of present day. Perhaps they were very similar to humans today, yet communicated like apes, and human language has evolved into hundreds of languages. My belief is that the theory of evolution and the theory of God's creation go hand in hand. There is no doubt that evolution plays a significant role in today's society, and perhaps someday we will have a final conclusion of both theories to keep the heavy debates at peace.

(42) F

Evolution is a very controversial topic to discuss anywhere worldwide because of the different religious and scientific views; everybody has a different opinion of how evolution really takes place. To me, evolution is a change in the genetic make up of species that could overtime lead to produce a new species. What I disagree on is that all known organisms descended from a common ancestor. This is where my religious views take over because I have grown up to believe that god is the only being who created all living organisms in our world, although now I see that it is possible for species to change over time.

There are some factors that lead to and are responsible for evolution. One of the factors is natural selection and adaptation by organisms. There have been many changes occurring to our planet that would cause for organisms to adapt to new conditions and environments in order to survive. These visible changes occur in the genes of the organisms and are very small and rarely noticeable from one generation to the next, but over time become very clear.

Another factor that leads to evolution is the possibility of mutations and genetic drift. This is when alleles in the genes disappear depending on their genotypes. These alleles are rarely used or represented in the appearance of organisms so then they may disappear as a result. When a certain allele is disappeared from an entire species there is no more chances that the species will look as it once did, thus resulting in evolution.

This is my view on the evolution of species. I agree that through natural selection and mutations species are able to create new species, yet I disagree that all organisms come from one common ancestor. Plants, fungi, bacteria, and other organisms such as these are also living organisms, but how could have humans evolved form the same gene pool that bacteria evolved from? For me this is impossible to believe that is what science believes that occurred. There are too many differences in humans and organisms like plants for this to be true to me.

(43) F

Evolution is a hot topic in many places. I know it was where I grew up. There are always the people who strongly believe in it and the people who are strongly against it. I think that these two sides could probably come to a halfway point. Charles Darwin first came up with the theory of evolution while studying finches in the Galapagos Islands. He observed them over several years and recorded the changes that took place in the species.

What the idea of evolution means to humanity is that we have the ability to adapt to changes. This thought can be somewhat comforting because our world is always changing. This shows that species are very adaptable and have a better chance of reproducing offspring that will have the traits that will enable them to survive. What this means to me is somewhat the same, in the respect that humans can adapt. I took an anthropology class last year, which went over evolution a majority of the time. The more we went over it the more I thought that evolution could be possible. There is evidence with the fossils found that animals and humans have not always looked the same. These fossils also show that the species over time have acquired certain traits that have helped them better adapt to the environment. However, I still believe that everything was created by God first and adapted afterward. This being said, evolution can still be possible with everything having been created first.

(44) M

To me, evolution is a very important and meaningful word in science. To many biologist, evolution is what they have studied there whole career. If it were not for evolution, many things that we know today would not be how we know them. Everything that I can think of has evolved over time. There are very few things that have not changed since they were first “created.”

I think that the main reason things evolve is do due changing conditions in the species surrounding environment. Things have to adapt to their surroundings and in order to do that things evolve. For example, some fish started with bone structures of feet and legs in their fins. The fish may have been amphibious then, now when we think of a fish, we picture them living solely in water and having fins. They have adapted to their environment because fish live only in water. Because they only live in water, there was no need for legs, and they evolved into fins. Hence, the fish evolved in order to adapt to its surrounding environment.

I also believe that if things did not evolve with its surroundings, many species that are currently living would be extinct. Without things evolving to their environments, many things may not have been able to survive climate changes or other extreme environmental changes that have occurred throughout the many years the earth has been around. Thanks to evolution, many things have been able to endure changes in the environment and we have been able to enjoy life, as we know it today.

(45) F

Evolution can be defined as the change in genetic material of a population over generations. I think of evolution as the way of the world staying alive and being able to change constantly to find new ways of living. If populations didn't evolve over years then we would be living the exact same way we did 500 years ago.

I, however, don't feel that humans have evolved from monkeys many centuries ago. I believe that all humans and creatures were created equally from God at the beginning of time. Just because I don't believe we evolved from monkeys doesn't mean that I don't think that populations “evolve” over time. One example that comes to mind is in the 1600's most men and women had an average height of below six feet tall. However, today, it is almost considered uncommon to find a man that is shorter than six feet tall.

In the first paragraph I had mentioned that if we didn't evolve we'd be living the exact same way we have been for quite some time. Evolution has proved itself in that sense because the technology, people and world itself differ to many extremes that none of it would be possible without the theory of evolution.

(46) F

Darwin's theory of evolution is that all life on earth is related and has come from a common ancestor. It also stresses “descent with modification”. He believed that organisms would eventually mutate and some mutated organisms would die out or the mutations would aid to their survival and be preserved, this he called natural selection. Humans are said to have evolved from ape like creatures over millions of years. In sequential order the list of ape like creatures that humans have evolved from goes as follows; *Ardipithecus ramidus* dated about 4.4 million years ago and was thought to be a forest dweller, and about four feet tall. *Australopithecus anamensis* showed advanced “bipedal” features but its skull resembled that of ancient apes rather than humans today. *Australopithecus africanus* had the jaw structure of the modern human, and was a herbivore it lived between three and two million years ago. *Australopithecus robustus* could not speak and its face was flat with no forehead, it lived between two and 1.5 million years ago. *Homo habilis* lived between 2.4 and 1.5 million years ago the remains showed that some speech could have occurred with this species, and that it was approximately five feet tall. *Homo erectus* had the ability to speak, it also cooked built fires and tools, he was built stronger than

the modern man and his face did not resemble man he lived between 1.8 and 300,000 years ago. *Homo sapiens archaic* had a more rounded skull with softened features, and had the ability to speak it lived 200,000 to 500,000 years ago. *Homo sapiens neandertalensis* had a much larger nose and brain than modern humans, he was probably 5 foot six inches tall and had large muscles. *Homo sapiens sapiens* is the modern human species. What this does for me and humanity in general is it gives us a whole new explanation of how the organisms in the world came to be. It also gives way for much research to be done to find other related organisms and find out their lineages.

The human population looks at evolution from many different views and perspectives. It can become a very controversial subject for some people because they are unsure whether to believe that all things evolve or all things were created equal.

(47) F

Evolution as a biology term is defined as the change in the genetic material of a population of organisms from one generation to the next. I comprehend evolution as the history of life on Earth and the changes of its living organisms. To me, the whole idea of evolution is difficult to understand and I have not thought very deeply about it until now. I agree that evolution changes generations and that each generation has changed tremendously and we have progressed due to evolution. Earth will be continuously evolving all around the world. The stages of life are because of evolution. Evolution is important to me because it is the reason why we are here today and causes the changes in our environment. It is constantly developing our surroundings and organisms all the way from the renaissance to reformation to problems with diversity to the baby boom to developments in technology. Some parts of each generation are lost while some will carry on, for example war. There will always be some kind of war going on in the world but war has certainly evolved over time. Evolution is how we understand the history of life, but there will forever be conflict on the origin of life and where it all began. I do not believe we all came from apes and evolved into *Homo sapiens*. I do believe that we all were put on this Earth because of God and we were all created equally from God. There are many different views on evolution and that is why we are all entitled to our own opinions.

(48) M

Evolution is explained as something that started at the beginning of time. The dictionary defines evolution as "A gradual process in which something changes into a different and usually more complex or better form." and in a biology sense "Change in the genetic composition of a population during successive generations, as a result of natural selection acting on the genetic variation among individuals, and resulting in the development of new species." an example of evolution would be when humans began to walk up right. This is a commonly shown evolution in many scientific text books. In evolutionary theory humans evolved from apes slowly loosening hair and walking in an up right stance, with the loss of hair the human became increasingly smarter and developed tools increasing brain size and the day to day life became easier. we see today how humans have continued to become smarter developing heaters automobiles and electronics. Also we have developed communication and a health system to help keep our species alive. Without evolution we may have never seen the days where we go to class or the days where we sleep on metal spring mattresses. For all we know we could be stuck in the dark ages possibly even before. We may not have even developed as a species. Even today we still argue on what is truth and what fiction is over evolution. The church teaches us that we have been here since creation however my biology class teaches me that we developed from apes. There could be a huge debate over who is right in the matter but the truth is that simply it is up to the person to believe what they choose to.

(49) M

Evolution is a scientific theory about how humans came to be. It says we evolved from various forms of monkeys. It also explains how many other organisms came to be. According to evolution we all started as a single cell organism. Every species imaginable has changed considerably since it has been created. In humans now, I have been told that most males outgrow and become taller than their fathers, which shows that our species is getting taller.

I believe that evolution occurs to give an advantage to a species. It occurs so that a species would be better suited to survive in its present environment. Evolution is related to natural selection. Natural selection is the gradual change in a species because advantages allow an individual to survive, and disadvantages cause it to

die. I think that evolution is basically natural selection but over a longer period of time, such as centuries and millenniums.

When I learned about evolution in high school, we were taught about the evolution of fish. There was a species of fish that's fins became so strong it could leave the water for short periods of time to go on land. It would use its "muscular fins" to walk across the land and chase mammals that lived close to the water. This is a perfect example of evolution. Evolution is a very important scientific theory that has had a lot of controversy because of religious groups. I don't know how I feel about evolution other than that it has become more widely accepted throughout the years. Evolution does test biblical texts and beliefs, but a lot of scientific theories do. I feel evolution is possible, and that we shouldn't exclude any possibilities as to how we could have come to be the species that we are.

(50) F

Evolution to me, and humanity in general is an extremely controversial concept to accept. Many people shut the idea down without knowing the true meaning of the words evolution, and the theory of evolution, which obviously have the same concept, but exhibit different meanings. In contrast, other beliefs such as creationism are not allowed to be taught in a majority of schools, limiting students' opinions on both viewpoints. Both evolutionists and creationists stand firm to their own belief, therefore they usually refuse to have an open mind to another standpoint. However, I think it's vital to know both sides, and appreciate the information regardless if you believe in it at all.

Evolution is defined as a gradual process in which something changes into a different and usually more complex form. To me, everything existing in our world today has evolved in some way. If one were to look around, and look at every item in the room you are currently in, each item has evolved into something "better," and more efficient. Examples of this could be a cell phone, television, furniture, cars, computers, and even the architecture of buildings. In relation to biology, animals evolve overtime, adapting into species that can better adjust to the changing environment they live in. Mating can have a major effect on evolution, as the genes of both parents make another unique characteristic that an animal naturally evolves into.

As a believer in God, I look at the evolution theory and can say that I believe in the evolution idea of the theory. Meaning, I know by the definition above, everything evolves. Everything adapts to their environment according, and changes with a period of time due to genes or even trends in society. The theory of evolution, in which states humans evolved from apes, is a theory thrown out there for the world to decide to believe it or not. I find what I believe about how life was created, personally by the truth of the Bible, and some go to the theories stated by intelligent scientists. However, I am willing to study, respect, and learn about the theories that have been researched, as I know the theory of evolution has been the most investigated study around; it could definitely be pretty interesting.

(51) F

Evolution is a very controversial subject in today's society. According to the dictionary, evolution is the change in the gene pool of a population from generation to generation by processes such as mutation, natural selection, and genetic drift. Everybody today has a different opinion and belief about evolution. I personally have two different views about evolution.

My first view about evolution is that I don't believe in evolution because it doesn't follow my religion. In my opinion, everything was made by god, as the bible says. I can sometimes get really uptight when evolution gets brought up in discussions, such as small discussions with my friends. A few will say that they believe in evolution and a few will be not so sure. I, on the other hand, pretty much am all for creationism. Although I do understand how evolution could be believed and followed, it is just something I do not believe in.

Evolution and creationism is a controversy that dates back to the late eighteenth century. It started in Europe and North America. The controversy mostly exists in the United States. Many religions do not believe in evolution because they believe that it contradicts their religion. Some religions believe that all things are created in god, or a supernatural form, and not the form of evolution. Other people believe in evolution so that they have an answer to how everything works.

All in all, evolution is a very opinionated subject. Some people believe in it, and other are completely against it.

(52) F

Evolution is one of the most controversial topics that could be placed before a group of students. Evolution in and of itself has so many different faces that it can be hard to pick just one side to view. There is the evolution of a single cell to a whole being to the creation.

To people, I believe that evolution gives them a way to theorize how we as humans got to be as complex as we are. I also think that it may be one of those things that are there so that people can fight about which way is right. Every person has the right to have their own view, but some are more vocal than others.

Personally, I do not believe in whole evolution. I think that there was at least some creation. What form this creation came in could be debated. I believe in whole creation, but can see the theory behind parts of the evolutionary theory. Mostly, I believe that evolution is just adaption of a species that sticks with the species over time. So, I guess what I am saying is that I believe in the creation of things; but they could have still evolved some parts of their structure or the function of that structure could have adapted and that adaption stuck. This 'new' structure or function adaption could become considered evolved if it was still the same over a very long period of time. I have a weird view of what evolution is and how it is for others, but I guess that is the way it is for me.

(53) F

Evolution, in terms of biology, is known as the change in the genetic material of a population of organisms from one generation to the next. It doesn't only apply to humans and chimps; it also applies to humans and plants or humans and fungi. Evolution is a topic that can be based on many different opinions, since it's such a debatable subject. It is a scientific theory that is supported by credible evidence.

I am a Christian and believe that God created the world, instead of believing that we evolved from apes. He is our creator because He sustains everything in existence. This theory is hard to understand and believe though due to there being no physical proof. I believe evolution does occur though due to the fact that generations and populations have evolved and continue to do so over time. Since my belief consists of both evolution and creationism, I believe it is possible to believe both combined. The only difference between the two comes down to what we think we know.

Humans changed and evolve over time. For example, human's heights, languages, and ways of living can change throughout the century, yet many people evolve at different rates. When considering these concepts, I wonder what the world will be like in millions and millions of years. Not to mention, how many and what types of species will become extinct? Evolution will continue to change society in numerous ways. In fact, it has made us into the people we are today.

(54) F

In regards to evolution, I consider myself a fairly religious person, so I can accept evolution to some extent. I don't believe that humans evolved from apes, however I do accept parts of Darwins theories associated with evolution. One of his theories is natural selection. With this theory he believes that natural selection heavily relies on individual variation and the ability to reproduce. This means the traits that a species acquires and the more able it is to reproduce, the better its chance of survival. Also taken into consideration is heredity. Some animals have desirable traits that allow them to survive better; such as a stronger beak or thicker fur. In other words, only the best will survive. However, too much success could lead to overpopulation and cause problems. If an environment becomes overpopulated with one species then that species food source will become scares and the animals could become weak. This could cause them to have to migrate or find another food source, which would then again cause the species to evolve because only certain animals will be able to adapt successfully to the changes.

With this said, it makes me wonder what the world will be like in say 5 million years. What species will be extinct? Will the same species still be at the top of the food chain? I think it is safe to say that there will still be the common domestic animals like cows, pigs, cats, and dogs; but I wonder if any changes will happen to wild animals. It is easier for wild animals to evolve because they are not interfered with by humans with such tactics as food plots, artificial insemination, or wildlife control. This could be one reason it is hard for animals to evolve because humans are starting to interfere in there with their normal environments.

(55) F

Evolution is something that is a very controversial topic right now. My opinion of evolution is most likely very different from the next person's opinion. According to dictionary.com, evolution is defined as a gradual process

in which something changes to a different and usually more complex or better form. When people hear the word evolution, they probably are mainly thinking only about humans and other species. Not only do people and animals evolve, but technology has evolved very much. Over the past ten years or so the technology has changed more than humans have. Such as high quality TVs, phones, and so on have improved.

At my high school, we didn't really talk much about evolution. Probably because in public schools topics are so limited. What we were taught was the more biological side of evolution. We have learned that animals have evolved over many centuries. Animals learn to adapt better to their environments and therefore they change. After hundreds of passing down genes to their offspring, animals eventually begin to have new characteristics. Over time, all these new characteristics form genotypes, therefore; species evolve.

But the most common thing people probably think about when talking about evolution is us, *Homo sapiens*. As everyone knows, we evolved from apes. Whether some people believe this or how their religion plays a part in their definition of evolution. A long time ago humans didn't exist, but apes did and eventually these apes adapted differently to their environment and new genes were put together to make children. After many many years, eventually these apes changed little by little, and today we have humans.

(56) F

According to dictionary.com, evolution is defined as a change in the gene pool of a population from generation to generation by such processes as mutation, natural selection, and genetic drift. I am a strong supporter of evolution. I wasn't raised with a religious background. I do believe in God, but I also find it difficult to believe that one person could create everything. In a public high school we were always taught the biological side of evolution, and how humans and organisms evolved from previous organisms. If organisms didn't evolve, everything would be exactly the same as when Earth was created. Humans would not exist; animals and plants would not exist. The only organisms that would be on the planet would be bacteria, since they were the first thing discovered to be on Earth. Organisms need to evolve to adapt to changing environments. Why else would certain organisms grow hair to stay warm or grow less hair in warmer environments? Why would humans be able to walk on two legs instead of on four like the chimpanzees? It is a process of natural selection. The more favorable genes or traits stay with the next generation and so on. These traits allow an organism to have a greater chance of survival and reproduction. Organisms with better traits reproduce more and pass on those favorable traits. As you can tell I am a big supporter of evolution and find it very interesting. I believe it was necessary for all of us to become the way we are today.

(57) F

Evolution, to me, is a complicated subject. I do believe that everything came about from evolution, but I believe that it happened because a greater power allowed it to. I think evolution is a very complicated subject to many others as well. I believe the reason humanity as a whole have such varied ideas on evolution because other factors influence their way of thinking. These factors can be things such as culture and religion. I believe that evolution is actually a sensitive subject among the biological and religious worlds. Biologists believe that all things evolved from something much simpler than it currently is today. Depending on the religion, it typically says that the Lord created everything in six days. I myself am catholic but believe that the Lord created the aspect of evolution which occurred over many years but was interpreted into the bible as days.

I believe that evolution is an important topic because it can help us determine how the future generations of all species will develop. After all, how do we know where we are going if we haven't an idea of where we've been? Evolution changes are usually small, but in time can result in the appearance of a whole new species. By understanding the means of evolution, we can sometimes answer questions like, "Why were these changes made and how to they benefit/harm this species?" Evolution, according to Wikipedia.com, is change in the genetic material of a population of organisms from one generation to the next. This change can occur because of a genetic mutation.

(58) F

Evolution consists of both gradual and abrupt modifications organisms make to adapt to their environment for survival; species' DNA changes to meet the demands of an organism's surroundings, and parts of the improved genome are passed on to offspring. Whatever a person believes was the ultimate cause of life and

species creation on this Earth, it can't be denied that organisms and their species have changed over the billions of years life has existed; evolutionary instances can even be found of recent adaptation changes through fossil records and biological studies. While evolution is only a theory, much scientific evidence credits the idea of adaptive changes in most species over time.

Evolution is significant to me as an individual and life form on the planet because since I aspire to be a research scientist, it's important to know the origin and ancestral background of an organism I plan on studying. Evolution provides important insights into the growth and development of all of Earth's populations, and connects organisms together in logical relationships. Humanity as a whole needs to stop shutting their eyes to science and realize that evolution could be our past, present, and future. The human population cannot remain ignorant of evolution and scientific evidence and expect to survive much longer. While spiritual beliefs are important to some, it's highly illogical to think that after creation no change in species and their DNA/genes occurred. It is possible that the ideas of evolution and creation can co-exist; humans just need to be as adaptive as the idea of evolution itself.

(59) F

I understand evolution as a slight change in a species from generation to generation. These changes are very small, and are hardly noticeable over short periods of time. However, the small changes in the genes of species can add up over time and lead to noticeable differences in the long run. Evolution is a species' way of adapting to their environment. Also, new species sometimes are produced due to evolution. For example, humans gradually evolved from apes over the course of numerous years. Without the apes' ability to adapt to their ever-changing environment, humans would not be today.

Evolution affects every creature, but it is easiest for me to see in humans. I view and depict evolution in humans mainly as adaptations that allow humans to live and survive in their natural habitat. Because evolution involves changes in the genetic make-up, humans attain different traits. These different traits help them adjust to life in the environment they call home. For example, tribal people most likely have different physical traits than a wealthy business owner living in a nice house. The tribal people have adapted to their surrounding environment which they call home, in order to survive. Also, the wealthy business owner has adapted to his/her life in a nice house, and would be in a world of hurt if he/she were forced to live like a tribal person.

I personally believe in the theory of evolution. I was raised in a Catholic household, and I am still a Catholic. Many people argue that the theory of evolution goes against the story of creation from the Bible; however, numerous biblical scholars have deemed the story of creation just that—a story. I believe much of the Bible is not to be taken literally, rather symbolically; therefore, I do believe in the theory of evolution. It seems rather silly and ignorant to me to completely disregard the theory of evolution solely based on a symbolic story. Furthermore, there is much scientific evidence that supports evolution, and I choose to believe in things that make sense and can be proven.

(60) F

Evolution was a sensitive subject for me growing up. I grew up in a Catholic family so the fact that God created the world was very clear and evolution was never really considered. Through high school evolution was just something that was covered in biology class, but was never really taught. I still firmly believe that God created the earth and everything in it, but the theories of evolution do interest me. I find the theory that humans evolved from primates fascinating. When presented with pictures of how humans have slowly developed from primates, this theory seems logical to me. But then there is the question of why primates still exist today. We know that the ones today are not slowly evolving into humans so if this theory is correct, why did they when the world was first created? However, it is really amusing to think that we developed from primates. With this theory, it makes me wonder what humans will look like in millions of years, knowing that we are slowly changing. Evolution is not just a scientific theory about where we came from. Its definition is a process of change in a certain direction. This could mean anything from height to weight to shoe size. In this sense evolution makes perfect sense. Everyone can agree that our physical appearance will change throughout our lifetime. Although the theories of evolution are very interesting, my faith is too strong to truly believe that humans evolved from apes.

With all the controversy with evolution, we will never know what really happened and everyone will stick with their opinions on the matter.

(61) M

According to Newsweek “beyond the bones,” “Human evolution” has also recently taken a pummeling from within. Formerly rock-solid examples of our alleged ape-like ancestors have been removed, without fanfare, from the classic transitional ape-to-man series that is still found in public school textbooks. “DNA makes clear that [*Homo erectus*] was almost certainly a dead end and not our ancestor.” An example of this would be “lucy,” which is no longer considered a missing link.

Personally, I believe that God created the world. Some people say that God created it by the big bang theory, which is completely false according to the bible. Creation according to the bible was not by random chance, and I believe that God created us with the ability to adapt to our environment. I think that we adapt to our surrounding to survive. I don’t really believe that we came from apes, and sea creature alike. But I just feel like it is really implausible. If I didn’t believe in a God it just seems to me that the ape-man wasn’t really that possible. But in biology it could be a legit reason of how we are today. Did we evolve at the same time? What was the need for a monkey to turn into a human? There are still monkeys today and they seem well off. Why is it that some evolved into humans and others stayed as monkeys? These are question that I would like to see answered. But I know that nobody can be sure because nobody was around to see what happened. Except for God.

(62) F

Evolution is a biological term meaning a “change in the gene pool of a population from generation to generation by such processes as mutation, natural selection, and genetic drift.” (Dictionary.com) In other words, evolution is the process in which organisms become better adapted to their environment by developing mutations that affect their reproductive success. The most successful mutations are passed onto their offspring. Evolution is a very slow process, normally taking many generations to appear. Evolution is overwhelmingly accepted by scientists but is still debated by those believing in creationism. Regardless of one’s stance on the issue, it is still an interesting and important concept to be discussed.

For the time being, humans have evolved to be the dominant species on the planet. Although this is an impressive task, it seems as though we have been abusing this position of power. The Holocene extinction refers to the mass extinction that is currently taking place. Whenever humans compete with other species for resources, we have a tendency to dominate. If we are not mindful, we can be quite destructive. Our activity and expansion has already caused the extinction of countless species including the Tarpan, the Tasmanian Tiger, and the Dodo bird.

Perhaps we have evolved too quickly. We have adapted and mutated with such an efficiency that no other creature on Earth can pose much of a challenge. That is not to dismiss our accomplishments, as we have achieved innumerable advancements and continue to do so. However, our developments cannot excuse the consequences. We must be careful not to destroy the magnificence we have evolved into, nor the equally magnificent organisms we share this planet with.

(63) F

The question of evolution is one that had been around since the beginning of time, and frankly, will never be fully answered. As elementary as this sounds, no one was there to witness or know exactly how we, as humans, are here today. If you were to ask me how humans came about, I would answer by retelling the story from the book of Genesis out of the Bible. I would say that God created the Earth in six days, and on the seventh day He rested. He created the earth, the sky, the stars and planets, the animals, the water, and man. Out of man He took a rib and made the woman to be his companion. From then on the world as we know it has been functioning and changing and evolving. I could tell you that I believe in the Big Bang Theory but I would be lying. I have too much faith in my religion to believe that the world and everything on it was created from atoms hitting each other at quick rates. I also do not believe that humans come from apes. If humans came from apes, then why are there still apes around today? No other species still exists in its prehistoric form, so why would apes still be here if they have evolved into humans? This is just one of the many questions that come up when debating the argument of evolution. Overall I believe it is a personal belief. It’s a choice you make just like when deciding your religion,

or confirming your stance on other topics such as abortion and the death penalty. Everyone has different reason why they chose the beliefs they chose. Why does it have to be one way or the other?

(64) F

Evolution has definitely had an effect on me and all of humanity. Without evolution, I would not be here today, the way that I am. I think that it is foolish to completely put down or disagree with because of religion. I believe that evolution is not something to be ignored or disregarded, there is plenty of evidence to back it up. It is inevitably a part of all living things. Humans have evolved over time. For example, heights of humans have changed over thousands of years. Brain development has also changed. The simple and complex difference from one generation to the next all point to evolution on a small scale. Over time, little differences become larger and evolution is more evident. I think that natural selection is also something to be discussed in terms of evolution. I think that Darwin's ideas about natural selection and survival of the fittest are great explanations for evolution. Evolution gives us the ability to change and adapt our bodies and minds to better live in our environments.

As a Catholic, I have always struggled with the ideas of creation and the theories of evolution. Over time I have come to the conclusion that evolution is supported by sound evidence and I agree that it is a phenomenon that has occurred and continues to occur. I still believe that God is responsible for creation and that evolution is something that He plays a role in. I believe that he gave life ability to adapt so that it can continue living.

(65) F

Evolution means a great deal to me. To me, evolution is the science of knowing, the science of better understanding who we are as a species and where we and all present day organisms originated from. Since I was young and taking my first science classes in school the concept of evolution has always sparked my interest. I think it is quite fascinating how all organisms originated from their ancestral organisms living in the seas and even more interesting is how through years of breeding, gradual changes and genetic mutations the vast variety of organisms which exist today formed millions of years ago.

It's true that without evolution we would have no humanity; none of the millions of species would exist today had evolution not played its part in the existence of our planet Earth. Our planet's abundant resources and life-giving capabilities have allowed the long process of evolution to successfully create and shape the diverse biology of the Earth.

Now back to the original thought: Without evolution there would be no humanity. By understanding evolution, we can better understand our ancestry, where we came from and quite possibly where we may end up in the future. Though the future is a mystery and the past is murky, the science of evolution and behind evolution shine a light on the past and allow us to understand deeper meanings of life and attach a greater significance upon what it means to be a human being. That in its self is why evolution is so important to me.

(66) F

Our book defines evolution as: "descent with modification; the idea that living species are descendants of ancestral species; also the genetic changes in a population over generations." Now about everyone can say that they've heard this definition ever since probably freshman year in high school. We were taught that human descended from apes, and that all animals have evolved over millions of years and adapted according to climate and many other factors.

However, there is a great contrast theory instead of evolution, and that would be creation. The debate of evolution vs. religion has been around for who knows how long, and there are constantly disputes on which one is correct. However, take another look at the definition; it says evolution is "the idea...." I think both biologists and religious teachers need to remember that people need to be allowed to have their own ideas about evolution and creation. I personally grew up in a religious household, however there's also the realistic side of my thinking that says evolution is completely plausible, after all, look at the amount of data that has been collected about the relationship among the genetics of species. Also, there's the complete amazement and wonder that comes along with evolution. How extraordinary it is that animals and even humans have changed so drastically since the beginning of time.

In summary, evolution is an astounding theory that basically describes how humanity and the biological world came to be through mutations and adaptations. Though the religious viewpoint is hard to ignore, it is nonetheless evolution that has made us and the world the place it is today.

(67) M

Evolution is defined as a notion that all life is related and has descended from one common ancestor. Evolution can mean a lot of different things to a lot of different people. Some people are dead set against evolution and turn to religion, and others are the opposite, believing humans are the result of a long line of evolutionary changes.

Considering I am a Christian and grew up in a rather religious family, evolution is hard for me to take seriously. Usually when I hear someone talking about evolution a turn away or just shake my head in disbelief. Lately I've become more open minded to the fact that evolution could be possibility. Then again when you think about it, scientists love when they have data to look at to make conclusions. If something has a mysterious twist or unanswered questions, then it's usually disregarded as untrue. This being said I think that evolution is just something that seemed plausible and somewhat "answered" questions about where humans came from. For me, evolution is something I will never believe in, simply because it sounds ridiculous and Charles Darwin went back on his own theory of evolution before he died.

What could evolution mean to humanity? Well, evolution is similar to religion in a way that it is something to believe in. But that is where the similarities end. It seems to me that as each new generation comes along, religion is struggling more and more, and evolution theory is grasping more people. I believe the reason being for this is because it's a very easy road to take. A lot of people are afraid of religion because of how it is portrayed in the media, but that is beside the point.

In my opinion, I believe that evolution could be a test of faith to all of humanity. A lot of people tell me I'm crazy for saying things like that but I consider it crazier to believe that humans evolved from a chimp.

(68) F

Evolution is defined as any process of formation or growth or development. According to a News week poll only 13% of Americans believe in naturalistic evolution (meaning God had no part in evolution). 48% of Americans believe that God created humans within the last 10,000 years.

Personally I believe evolution is a well thought argument between what created the earth and how the earth came about. I do believe in God, don't get me wrong, but I believe evolution is a more logical explanation for how the earth, animals, humans, and all living organisms came about. There are so many pieces of evidence linking many species to each other, including monkeys to humans. However, many questions come about when dissecting the theory of evolution. Questions such as: How do we know evolution is a fact and other species came from other species? Why is there a bible if God did not create all living things on earth?

There are so many arguments that are proposed with the idea of evolution whether they are right or not, this we do not know. We can only go off our own opinions and what it is that we believe in. No one can push upon you the idea of evolution if you do not choose to believe it, whether there is probable evidence or not. Evolution has been studied by many high up scientists, and those scientists can present you their material very well, but the bible and religion also present their material just as well.

(69) F

Evolution in biology is defined as the theory that groups of organisms change with passage of time, mainly as a result of natural selection, so that descendants differ morphologically and physiologically from their ancestors. This means that over time, groups of organisms go through changes and adapt to new environments. The changes that take place in generations are relatively small, but after many generations, there is a huge change. Evolution is how we begin to understand our ancestry and how we were developed. However, it is nothing more than a theory.

The big controversy with evolution is with the biologists studying evolution and those pushing religion. People who are strong believers in God believe that he made this earth, and everything in it. Those who are pushing evolution believe that humans came from primates and evolved into what we are today. As hard as it is to prove that God is the creator of everything since there is no hard proof, I have a hard time believing we came from apes. However, I don't think evolution is completely wrong. I am a Christian and I do believe that God made the earth, humans, and everything else, but I do believe that we are slowly evolving over time. This can even be

proved by looking at a certain animal today and comparing it to what it looked like millions of years ago. I think evolution plays an important role in determining what humans could evolve into many years from now.

(70) F

Evolution is a term meaning, 'a process of change in a certain direction.' I personally do not believe that us humans have evolved from monkeys as our earth has progressed through these years. It just doesn't seem logical by any means because we act nothing like monkeys if you look at it closely.

All life appears to be designed, and evolutionists have failed to adequately explain why. Adaptation to environmental changes, mutations, and natural selection has not validated macroevolution. Macroevolution is a term meaning, 'that all life forms come from an original life form which was generated from non-living matter.' This is what theorists go against who themselves believe in evolution of our people.

Evolving from one species to another occurs at the genetic level in most cases. According to most information provided by reading our textbook about genetics, in order for evolution to be possible, new information must be added to the gene code that creates new traits and eventually changes the species into a new species. This must be done without damage to the species.

With these small evidences that I have remembered learning about in other classes, this is the reason that I don't believe in evolution. Even if you look at the people around you no one person looks the same in any shape, size, or form. If you look at monkeys, a lot of the monkeys look the same except for this skin color or size. It is impossible for us to have evolved from these amazing creatures. I'm not saying it would be weird to find out that we are throughout the years, but there is no exact evidence that we actually have. I feel that more research needs to be done to prove this, but until then, evolution is something that I do not believe in.

(71) F

Many people understand that evolution is the process by which modern organisms have descended from ancient ancestors, but not many people can fully explain how this works. Evolution can only occur when there is a change in gene frequency within a population over time. These genetic differences are heritable and can be passed on to the next generation. Gene frequency, however, is affected by a few factors, including mutation, migration (of individuals from a population), genetic drift, and natural selection (originally presented by Charles Darwin).

Evolution is important because it impacts life for all species. Without evolution, organisms will be disadvantaged with the constant change in the environment, and this would eventually cause all of the organisms on earth to die out, and there would be nothing left. So basically, evolution means everything to humanity.

A perfect example of evolution is ourselves. The human race evolved from apes. It is no doubt, that because of evolution, humans will evolve and change again the future, just like the apes did.

People may be wondering, if evolution is present, why do some species become extinct? This question relates back to Charles Darwin's survival of the fittest theory. When environmental changes occur, organisms must adapt to the new environment in order to survive. If they cannot do this, they will die off, and eventually become extinct.

For the 3.8 billion years since earth was created, evolution has resulted in countless numbers of structures and organisms. These species vary from the simplest single-celled organisms, to the most complex multicellular organisms, everyone having it's each individual genes and traits.

(72) M

Evolution to me is a very difficult subject. It has been something I have grown up learning and hearing about. It is well supported by research and evidence. It seems like it truly could of happened to me. I am a believer in God and the Bible says that he created all things. Why would it say this if evolution happened? I go back and fourth on the idea of what is right and what isn't. In the end you just have to fall back on what you believe. The idea that humans evolved from apes makes a lot of sense to me. I see the similarities and why that would be true. After much thought what evolution means to me is, God created us and he made us able to evolve and adapt. So I think they are both true but I will always believe in the Bible version more.

What evolution means to society is, a way to understand and define humans and what we are and where we came from.

(73) F

“Evolution, and what it means to me and to humanity in general.”

There are basically two sides to this argument, either you are for evolution or you are for intelligent design. According to the dictionary, evolution is the process by which different kinds of living organisms are thought to have developed and diversified from earlier forms during the history of the earth. Charles Darwin also came up with a theory of gradual evolution over a long period of time.

Personally, it is hard for me to accept a lot of the concept of evolution. I believe that God created the world in six days, but I also believe that this evolve over time. I find some of the arguments very interesting and I love to listen to people debate about the subject. In high school, we would have debates in our science classes but it was always difficult to do because almost every single person in my class (20 students) was a Christian.

I think it is important for all of humanity because for Christians it gives promises of life after death, eternal life. For evolutionist, it is said to be "the cornerstone of all modern biology." (about.com) So how many people believe in God? About.com says the about 2 billion people in the world are Christians, that's 33% of the world's population. How many people believe in evolution? About 66% of the population is not a Christian. But, in a recent poll, only 13% of Americans think that God had absolutely no part in evolution.

I think that humanity is confused with what to believe and not to believe and I am sure that the world will never know.

(74) F

Evolution has been defined as the change in the genetic material of a population of organisms from one generation to the next. Even though the changes are small in evolution, over time they build up and can eventually lead to the creation of a new species. Small-scale evolution is changes in gene frequency in a population from one generation to the next. Large-scale evolution is the descent of different species from a common ancestor over many generations. The main idea of evolution is that all life shares a common ancestor and then it branches out from there. Evolution sometimes happens as a new way for a species to adapt to their environment.

Personally, I do believe in evolution. I was raised Catholic and still am a Catholic and I do not think that the theory of evolution is going against what the Bible says. A lot of people will argue that evolution goes against the Catholic beliefs but I would have to disagree. The reason why I believe in evolution is because it makes sense to me. From what I have learned about evolution, I believe it why we are here today. Over time evolution has developed many new species of animals and there is scientific information that points towards human evolving from apes.

There are so many different arguments about evolution and it is such a controversial subject that we do not have a concrete answer about it. People will choose to believe what they want because some take the Bible literally and others do not.

(75) F

Unlike a lot of people I know I was not raised in a religious environment. My parents raised me in an agnostic household. I mention this because a lot of people either believe or do not believe in evolution based on their religious upbringing. In the Swoboda household, evolution was never a theory that was questioned; it was the accepted way of explaining human history and the history of the world.

When I personally look at evolution, I see a logical way of how we have come to be; from when we first started to walk up right on the plains of Africa, used tools for the first time, to Lucy and our other long distance relatives. It shows how we are all connected as species and have a common ancestor. With this in mind, it really narrows and diminishes the differences that some put so much emphasis on, like the color of our skin, our geographic regions and such.

Now, having addressed my personal feelings on the importance of evolution in my life I feel I need to ask one question. This is only after living with my roommates Grant and Mark for the past three years, I have to ask the question, "How far have we really evolved as a species or are my two roommates just adorations?" It does not take very much for them to be grunting at each other and bashing each other over the head just like the apes I have seen at the Henry Dorley Zoo in Omaha. Have we overestimated our own evolution or underestimated other primates?

(76) F

The study of evolution is the largest biological question of all time. Without it our species would be clueless. Evolution includes every living organism on the earth's surface, flying in its sky and living in its waters.

Evolution is the reason we are individuals, the cause for the way our mind and body works. The word “evolution” to any biologist is not just a word in the glossary needed to proceed in the finding of a new species but the reason we have the ability to find that species. Evolution is the knowledge that we have a future based on our past. The human race has surpassed the evolution of an abundance of extinct animals and will surpass many more. We are still in the cycle of evolution that will never end.

I do believe that humans come to their own way of evolving, from our history books our bodies have not evolved but our minds keep in action. Our brains keep thinking and creating new ways for our body to survive or act. The evolving mind now tells us to recycle, informs pregnant women to avoid certain medicines, and to no longer use lead paint. New information has given us this information which will secure our future which is what evolution does in the long run. Recycling secures our environment. Having pregnant women avoid taking certain pills or have children at a younger age all affect Darwin’s idea of natural selection. Humans are using their knowledge to make help secure healthy offspring. While avoiding lead paint will secure the health and future of our existing species.

Evolution is a biological question that has still not been fully answered.

(77) F

Evolution is one of the primary theories of science. It is undoubtedly one of the fundamental principles that many scientists have based all their life works off of. Evolution is the concept that an original organism adapts and changes to it’s surrounding environment creating a difference between the original organism and the current one. There are many people in this world who stand on one side or the other concerning this issue. As for me I’m sure that my opinion is vastly different from others.

Through out this semester we have been instructed to transform our minds and think like a biologist. Taking this statement and analyzing the prompt causes me to ponder some things. In biology every thing is done through the scientific method at some point. If you want to be able to do work in this field someone has to be able to reproduce your work. There are rules to research that are in place so that future generations can test your theory. That’s all evolution is though; a theory. In order for evolution to be accurate by Biology standards it has to be able to be recreated. That is just something we can’t do. We can’t go back to the beginning because we don’t know when that was. No one was there to record it so therefore we can only assume what we think happened. There is no way to prove the beginning of evolution. Now as for what I believe it doesn’t pertain to this. I have my own faith that centers my thoughts and actions. To me there are principles of evolution that surround us on a day-to-day level. We just can’t ignore that, as for the side of evolution and how we came from that. My opinion on the other hand is indifferent because that’s not the topic at hand. The concept of evolution has affected humanity greatly. You can look out your window and see the changes around us. Our world is always changing just as humanity is always changing. It’s clear that whether or not you believe we evolved or were created evolution has affected us in some way shape or form.

(78) M

Evolution is defined as the gradual process in which something changes into a different and usually more complex or better form. Darwin first came up with this theory in the 1850's. Evolution has been debated many times over the last 100 years or SO. The biggest opponent to evolution is the theory of Creation and that God created the world and everything in it in 7 days or whatever. The biggest problem with this is that there is not much prove and anything to be proved about it but the faith and what we believe. But the evolution theory has some proof, but it has a very big hole in its evidence with the missing link thing, but as I watch TV and see stuff on the discovery channel or Nat geo, that they say they might have found the missing link and that it’s the biggest discovery since Lucy. This whole thing of course is the theory that people evolved out of monkeys and that they evolved out of something else like a fish or something, if this is true what humans will evolve into the next 10,000 years that is assuming the world hasn't ended by then. Even if they do prove that we did evolve out of monkeys, I am sure that a lot of people still won't believe because of their strong faith in the believe in the theory of creation. I personally don't believe in either because it doesn't affect me what one is true because I don't care what one is true.

(79) M

Evolution is the change in genetic material of a population of organisms from one generation to the next. The changes are small and can take a large amount of time. There are a lot of similar traits of all known species, which contributes to the evidence of evolution.

I do believe in evolution over time, there are many studies and evidence that shows that species will evolve over time. What I don't believe in is that we all evolved from the same species, or that we came from certain monkeys. I do believe in natural selection, which causes certain traits to survive and other traits that would hold back a species to die off. Also I know that adaptations occur through a combination of small random changes in heritable traits. There are many types of heritable traits in humans like eye, hair, and skin color. They're studies that show that red hair is dying out because of traits not being passed down. This is one example of evolution in humans. Those traits are passed through generation by DNA, that encodes genetic information.

Natural selection is when genetic mutations that enhance reproduction become the main successive gene or species in a population. Because organisms produce more offspring than can survive, the stronger better offspring will survive. This causes favorable mutations and genes that will become the norm. This is referred to as evolutionary fitness of an organism. The ability of an organisms ability to survive and reproduce also contributes to this.

In conclusion I do believe in evolution and all the different ways that it can be spread. I just don't agree with most of the scientist ideas with how it all got started.

(80) F

Evolution is the change of a species over a period of time. This occurs through differences between the parents and their offspring, offspring have different traits than their parents because they receive half of their chromosomes from their father and half from the mother no organism is exactly the same.

Evolution can occur in two main ways; random and selective. Random evolution is when traits are change from generation to generation by chance it is said to be random. Selective evolution is when traits that help an animal in their environment such as color our passed on to the next generation. This occurs because organisms that have a color that helps them hide from their prey will live longer and have more children than those that don't have the right color. Since these organisms have more children the helpful trait will be passed on and the unhelpful trait will decrease and eventually disappear.

To many people evolution is how they came to be on this earth. Many people believe that every organism on the planet evolved from one common ancestor, and that humans evolved from primates. To me evolution is the explanation for small changes in the human population for instance humans are typically taller in the present time than they were back in the 1800's. I however do not believe that humans evolved from any over organism. I believe that God created the universe, Earth, and every living thing on it. God created man and woman along with all the other species including *Ambystoma texanum* and the grass that we walk on.

(81) F

Asking about Evolution is always a teeth grinder. There are many debates on this topic and opinions that are expressed. I believe that evolution is a very interesting topic of discussion. Everyone sees the world different; I see it in a logical and practical way. I was not raised to believe that God created humans and the things that are on the earth. I see the term from a biological point of view.

I believe that the earth had to evolve over time. With advances and other sources, the world was able to change and adapt. Evolution is the process of change over time. This is exactly what earth has done over the many years of its time. It is important to me because it explains the different organisms and process of change to become what they are today. What stands out the most is the evolution of humans. It shows us who our ancestors are and how we came to be.

The process of this is slow but life changing. The evolution of each organism and species leads to another phenomenon. With the knowledge of the logical aspect of how earth came to be, it is easier to understand. The process of evolution has allowed the world to survive and become what it is now. Organisms lived throughout

years and developing to their surroundings is because of evolution. To sum it up, Evolution has made a large impact on all of our lives, with it we are here today.

(82) F

The word evolution means a great deal to me. It is a word that is deeply talked about, in the means of religion and species. I do believe that evolution has happened in our world from the beginning of time. Species have evolved in many different ways. For instance, the giraffes at one point had very short necks, until all of the trees had no more leaves on them on the lower branches, so over time, giraffe's necks had to grow longer and longer so they could eat leaves off of much taller trees. As far as the evolution of monkeys into humans, that is a hard topic for me to discuss, because I believe in God and the Bible. It is hard for me to believe that God did not put humans here on this earth, but He could have put monkeys on the planet first. It's a topic that is very confusing to me, and I guess nobody will know the true answer to these mysterious questions. Many people in this world are confused on the topic. I have not personally researched much about evolution, and I'm not too sure if I want to know more about it. I believe that it would make me even more confused than I am now. If I had to talk with another person about evolution, I don't think that I could take part in the conversation, because I would probably make a fool of myself. I do know that animals and species evolve because of their surroundings, and that's all that I care to know about.

(83) F

Evolution is the theory presented by Darwin. It is the widely accepted theory that all living organisms are descendant from one organism. I believe in evolution but I also believe in creationism. Like number 6 of the paper II posted on Blackboard, just because I believe in evolution does not mean I do not believe in God. I believe that God created the earth and had a plan for the way everything would evolve. Evolution to me is that all living organisms came from one ancestor. Be that humans or plants or microscopic organisms. It is weird to think that humans came from apes but at the same time it is not. We look somewhat like apes and have some of the basic habits that apes do; like grooming, taking care of young, and living in family groups.

Most of humanity believes the way I do if they believe in a higher power. There are some people that only believe in evolution and there are those that deny everything of evolution and strictly believe in creationism. I am not really sure what it means to humanity in general; everyone has a different set of beliefs, which is why there are so many ways to worship whichever deity you see fit if any at all.

(84) M

The idea of evolution has always excited me. Ever since I was a child I have always been mystified by the idea of humanity's origin. Eventually I learned about the theory of Evolution and that really stuck with me because to me it truly made sense and sounded believable. I am a big fan of things that make sense. I am a logical thinker, a little more left brained than I am right, so I appreciated how the theory of evolution was backed by scientific research and facts instead of just stories.

This belief in evolution has had a profound effect on my personality as well as my method of thinking. I hold no one life in higher regard than any other, and I don't discriminate towards anyone no matter what because I know we all come from the same place. Every single person that has walked this earth has a common ancestor, something that brings us all together. We are all equal and I believe we should act like it. This is also why I am a pacifist because if everyone is the same then why ever fight?

Of course, that is just the effect this theory has had on me and my way of thinking about origin. However, I am not alone in my support of this idea. Every day scientist learn more and more about the history of our species and our planet and with every puzzle piece that they discover it only seems to back the idea of evolution even more. Evolution is beginning to be thought of as more or less the norm nowadays, whereas when it was first introduced it was considered by many to be blasphemous, dangerous, or just plain wrong. Luckily our culture is starting to become more open minded and adaptive towards ideas like this, and that honestly gives me hope for the future.

(85) F

Evolution has been studied quite a bit. In anthropology, they have many skeletal discoveries that show us how we evolved from other species. The bottom line and difference that make humans, humans is that fact that we are bipedal. There is no good evolutionary explanation for why humans developed this weird way of locomotion. They would be far slower and there for easy prey. The only reason that anthropologist have come up with is that when walking on two legs they have their arms free to carry more food back to their partner and children. Being able to forage and bring more food back would make them stronger and there for would live through natural selection.

I have been raised in a strict catholic home, my brother is a priest and the Bible says god created everything. That Adam and Eve were just created in his own image. Do I believe that? I'm not sure. We are not able to say with any certainty where animals came from. So god could have put a human like species on Earth and then for biological reasons we have changed into humans today. I think that there are so many what if situations that I just don't think about it. I think we are all here for a reason and species that are in the past are no longer here for a reason.

What it means for humanity in general, I'm not sure. I think most people don't really think about how we got here and before this prompt I haven't thought about it since my anthropology class. It could mean that soon a new form of super human will emerge or humans with a new skeletal defect or humans will be wiped out, only time will tell.

(86) F

Evolution. What it means to me and to humanity in general. Evolution to me and evolution to humanity in general in my opinion are two very different things. I do not view evolution the same as most people I meet. I think most people look at evolution as a whole way too much. In general, people say that evolution is all of us coming from a single organism that existed a really long time ago. For example a lot of people will state that we derived from monkeys and apes, but in my opinion I think that this theory is not fully true. I view that the little changes in our body make up is what defines evolution. I view that the little pieces of organs in our body that no longer have a function are also a key part of evolution. Take the appendix at the end of the large intestine for example. Many scientists think that we used our appendix to digest raw meat. Back in the day we did not have things such as stoves and refrigerators to store and cook various meats. So this theory to me makes sense. They also think that since we now have these new technologies that our appendix slowly stopped working with one mutation after another. They also think that eventually the appendix will no longer be a part of our anatomy. So from this short essay, it is very easy to see that my view of evolution and the so called "normal" view of evolution are quite different.

(87) F

According to Darwin's Theory, "All life is related and has descended from a common ancestor." Darwin believes that even the gorillas, bananas, cattle, and strawberries are all somehow related. This means that Darwin believes that even I have evolved from ancestors naturally over time. Darwin also says, "As random genetic mutations occur within as organism's genetic code, the beneficial mutations are preserved because they aid survival." This is known as natural selection. As these genes increase more and more it will eventually result in a whole new and different organism.

I have heard many different stories of how we got here. One story that I remember the most is that we were derived from a type of ape or gorilla. This is crazy to me! I do not see how one could learn the traits of an animal such as; eating food from the ground, killing others for survival (and that being a natural thing), and running on both our hands and feet, and then be able to turn human but not act like an animal.

Darwin seems like a very intelligent man, however, I do not think I feel very confident about his theory. I am a strong believer in God, and think he is my Creator. I truly believe God made the Earth I walk on, the sun, moon, and the stars. I think he created this so that we could have a place to live. He then created his children, us. Even though I have my own thoughts and opinions does not mean I think Darwin's theory is wrong.

(88) F

By definition, evolution is a change over time. Under this broad explanation, evolution can refer to a variety of changes that occur over time including erosion, emotions, habit or the development of a species. From a

biological aspect, evolution is a change in the properties of populations of organisms or groups of such populations, over the course of generations. However, for most people, evolution simply means controversy.

Evolution may be the single most contentious debate that faces humanity today. Politicians, public figures and high school science teachers all have opinions and the desire to have them heard. Many people think the issue has to be black and white and a choice to be made. That choice lies between religion and science.

The discussion surrounding the issue of evolution truly hits close to home for me. I was raised in a family with parents with conflicting religious views. With arguments in support of creationism coming in one ear and others evolutionist opinions flying in the other, I was left to deduct my own definition from the information I was given.

Just as I made the personal decision to follow religious practices, I also chose to accept the theory of evolution. My decision to believe in evolution was based mainly on rationality. I tend to rely on logic when all else fails to solve problems and answer questions. The ideology underlying the theory of evolution simply makes sense. It is my opinion that the theory of evolution does not contradict the teachings of the Bible, but instead can be integrated into religious beliefs. Evolution was part of God's plan.

(89) F

Evolution is the change of organisms from one generation to the next. There are various similarities in species, so this makes us think that all species are generated from a common ancestor.

Evolution to me is extremely fascinating. The idea of humans once being apes is weird to think about, but I think it could possibly be true. The progress it has made over all this time is remarkable. It's like going to the Henry Doorly Zoo and going into where the gorillas are. There is a evolution line, from when the apes were first made to now. The last thing is a human. That's where you're supposed to stand.

Also at the zoo you see a glass case where a gorilla's skeleton is, and then there is a human skeleton. The resemblance is astonishing. It makes it hard to believe that we weren't the next generation to apes. My opinion on it is that it's true, but a various people think differently. I honestly don't see how you could think differently after seeing the resemblance.

Evolution in humanity causes problems, especially to the people who believe in God and such. Obviously they don't want to hear things such as God didn't create them, so they aren't going to believe in evolution. They don't even give evolution a chance; they don't want the possibility of not believing in a higher power anymore.

(90) M

I see evolution as how our body changes itself to become better for our environments and the situations we endure during our lifetime. It's nothing we can see over our lifetime or over many lifetimes but over a greater span. It's also something most people, including me, never really think about because it is nothing we have control over or see in our everyday lives. However, I think it's interesting to see that we are who we are today from such things as natural selection or genetic drift. Natural selection is the process that shows how nature picks favorable genes or less favorable ones. Genetic drift is the chance that a particular gene will be passed on to the offspring from the parent.

Adaption is an interesting process to me. It was hard for me understand at first the all organisms just naturally try to become better suited for their environment. Adaption is the reason so many species are able to survive in conditions that they would have otherwise become extinct. Adaption could also just as easily be the loss of a trait that was holding back an organism or potentially causing it's extinction. After I had learned of this, I began to understand the even started to tell in some animals the adaption's they made. Such things could be easily seen like the wings on any flightless bird such as the ostrich. I later on learned that these were called vestigial structures. I hope to continue to learn more about evolution and adaption throughout college.

(91) F

In biology evolution is the change in the genetic material of a population of organisms from one generation to the next. For me, and my beliefs, I believe that God created man. But in a world filled with controversy its hard not to think maybe there is such a thing as evolution. The theory of evolution has allowed billions of organisms to live through billions of years here on Earth. It's allowed organisms to adapt to the ever-changing world in which they live.

Scientists are consistently testing the theory of evolution. For many people they reject this idea of evolution, because of their religious beliefs. They have every reason to reject it, everyone is allowed their own opinion. I have a strong faith and believe in God, but at the same time, I'm open to the idea of evolution. It does make sense that we as human, mammals, animals did evolve from small microscopic organisms such as algae and bacteria. Evolution will constantly cause controversy in our world. Splitting between the faithful and the scientists. With that I'd like to mention that evolution is a theory, and a theory that can be falsified.

Evolution does allow many species to adapt and change their make up to survive, but it also allows for other species to become extinct. Through all of the Earth's hardships, Ice Age, Oceans, etc., organisms have been around. At the beginning, before dinosaurs, there was only a giant sea. Thousands of organisms thrived through the huge sea, but the most successful over the years, were the ones that could live both on land and also in water. This is an example of evolution to benefit the species. Which could be classified as a fact to back up the idea of the theory of evolution. It's very hard for me to write about evolution, with my Catholic religion. I've always been skeptical on which one I was supposed to believe. So I've decided to keep an open mind about the theory of Evolution.

(92) F

Evolution to me is a very hard and complex subject to grasp. When a person hears the word "evolution" they immediately start thinking about their own beliefs on the universe and how it was created. Was it created by God or did we all just evolve from one common ancestor? I think it is safe to say that evolution is a strong nine-lettered word that can create a lot of ruckus.

In general, evolution is the change in genetic material of a population of organisms from one generation to the next. This means that everything in the universe has changed genetically over time. But does this mean that we all evolved from one common ancestor? I don't believe so. If each and every thing on this planet evolved from one ancestor, then why would there still be that one ancestor. For example, a lot of evolutionists say that humans evolved from apes, but if we evolved from apes then why would there still be apes on the planet? We wouldn't have anything to compare ourselves to because one would think that the apes should be gone. I would think the apes should be gone anyhow. When something changes, you don't have the original to compare it to because the original should have changed too. We still have many different types of monkeys on this planet, and all of them should have evolved into humans if that was the case.

I struggle with this a lot, because to some extent there is evidence of evolution. Many different organisms are very close in their genetic makeup, but to me it just doesn't seem possible that we all evolved from one ancestor. I think that society struggles with the same thing I do. We were taught the theory of evolution in school, but we were never taught creation by God, mainly because it's based all upon belief, and it was shunned upon. In general, life is complex. Everything about life is complex and that's what is so great about society today. We can all believe what we want to. There is evidence of evolution, but some of it seems a little questionable. There is evidence of creation from the bible, and to some this seems questionable too. I guess the main thing is to just believe what you want, and in the end when your day comes and your life is over you will definitely know if you were right or not.

(93) M

To me evolution is just a theory everyone treats it like it's a proven fact and it's not. I personally believe in evolution to a point. I think it's pretty hard to argue against the evidence found by the fossil remains of our early ancestors and the genetic evidence that has come about lately, so I think evolution has happened but I don't think it explains the complete story of life on Earth and creation in general. The world had to come from somewhere and science says it came from the big bang, I say it was intelligent design as the idea has now been labeled. The chances of the big bang turning out the way it did are very slim in terms of probability and even if the big bang did occur something or someone had to start it. The world and the universe is just too complex and intricate for it to be an accident. The only problem with this theory of intelligent design co-existing with evolution, is that where would the evolution of the soul come into play along with evolution of the body. This question for me I have not found an answer for yet, on how religion and science coincide.

Evolution for humanity has caused the whole debate between religion and science and can they co-exist or not. More than that though evolution has brought to the table new ideas on how organisms develop over time and allows us to make predictions about the future. Overall evolution has played a large role in advancing biology to the place where it is today.

(94) F

Evolution is change in the genetic material of a population of organisms from one generation to the next. The basis of evolution is the genes that are passed on from generation to generation and these produce organism's inherited traits. Evolution itself is the product of two opposing forces, processes that constantly introduce variation and processes that make variants either become more common or rare. Two major mechanisms determine which variants will become more common or rare in a population. One is natural selection, a process that causes helpful traits (those that increase the chance of survival and reproduction) to become more common in a population and causes harmful traits to become more rare. This occurs because individuals with advantageous traits are more likely to reproduce, meaning that more individuals in the next generation will inherit these traits. The other major mechanism driving evolution is genetic drift, an independent process that produces random changes in the frequency of traits in a population. Genetic drift results from the role that chance plays in whether a given trait will be passed on as individuals survive and reproduce.

Evolution to me means complex creatures evolve from more simplistic ancestors naturally over time. This means that even us has humans evolved from something else naturally over time. I don't however believe that this means that we evolved from apes. Even though we are close in appearance and have many of the same characteristics we could have come from the same ancestors but not evolve from each other.

(95) F

When I begin to think of the idea of evolution, in general I think of the scientific changes that a species undergoes to better survive in its surrounding environment. I also tend to think about how the theories of evolution and religion have seemed to butt heads over several years. The theory of evolution's argument is along the lines of the fact that we all came from something older than us and we have just changed for better survival; that we all came from one common ancestor. Religion's argument is along the lines of that we all are who we are because this is exactly how god made us. Evolution is the only side taught in schools and the theory religion presents is obviously preached heavily in churches. As for my own opinion based on what I have learned in my years of school and in church, I would have to say that I agree with some of the points both sides present. You cannot deny the fact that evolution can be seen all around us, even in other species other than humans and how they adapt to their changing environments. But who can prove that god does not have a hand in all this work?? Is it plausible to think that everything in the universe came from one, small, single-celled organism that just suddenly appeared and began dividing and producing copies of itself?? Will scientists ever be able to prove either theory or will the mystery of why we are who we are forever haunt everyone's thoughts?

(96) M

Evolution: change in the gene pool of a population from generation to generation by such processes as mutation, natural selection, and genetic drift. -dictionary.com

To me, evolution is a bunch of bull...well kind of. I think that evolution is one of those things that people don't want to believe because it contradicts the idea of a God. At least this is my view on it. Being in an anthropology class that has gone over nothing but how we have evolved from apes and "Australopithecus" it makes you wonder, with all that "evidence", how can it not be true. Evidence like skulls that look almost identical to a hominid skull and has been carbon dated to be about 3 MILLION years old. For some reason everything doesn't really match up between the whole evolution theory and the God "theory" (calling it a theory seems like a bad idea).

Evolution seems like a thing that is naked to the human eye 100% of the time, it's more like something that must be captured as a fossil or captured somehow in time. There is nothing that I can think of that has evolved quick enough without outside (human) influence that can be noticed within the lifespan of a particular person.

I also know that I don't like thinking about Evolution this much because it almost makes me feel like I am going against the church, even though I am not apart of the regular attendance by any means.

Will we ever know our true beginnings?

(97) F

Evolution is the process of continuous change from a lower, simpler or worse to a higher more complex, or better state. Although there is a lot of evidence that supports the theory, there has been no evidence that clearly proves it to be true. I agree that things change over time. It makes sense that species would change to better themselves. I believe that our bodies have changed over time due to different environmental factors. For example humans developing different immunities over time due to different diseases.

There are many parts of evolution that I don't understand. If evolution were true why are there still some species that have stopped evolving? Like if we evolved from monkeys why are there still monkeys? Or if we truly evolve from monkeys why is the human heart more like a pig heart instead of a monkey? These are questions that are not answered by the theory of evolution. I can see how an evolutionist supports the idea of natural selection because the weakest of the species is killed off and the healthy become stronger. But on the other hand how do we know that its not apart of a more divine plan to provide and help keep the healthy animals healthy giving them food from the weak and also keeping the total number of the animals in a proper balance. There are many questions that have yet to be answered. I believe that evolution will always be a topic of controversy. I don't think it will ever be a proven fact.

(98) F

My definition of evolution is the growth of species over time. Through previous science classes and even some religious classes, I have developed some knowledge of evolution. From my previous science classes in grade school and in high school, I have learned the Charles Darwin came up with idea of evolution when he studied different species during a trip to the Galapagos Islands. He deduced from studying different organisms that they changed over time and produced favorable traits in accordance to their environments. For example, some species changed color to match their environment and to hide from predators. The changing of traits is a part of evolution and a part of adapting favorable traits for survival. Darwin came up with the idea of the "survival of the fittest." Those with the most favorable traits are more likely to survive, hence, the "survival of the fittest."

To humanity, I feel that my own definition is still pretty accurate. When I looked up the definition of evolution on dictionary.com, it read that evolution is "any process of formation or growth; development: *the evolution of a language; the evolution of the airplane.*" For humanity, evolution means the changing of animals, things, and people. For example, the Beatles went through an evolution. Their albums became drastically radical, pro-peace, and contained drug-references. Their early albums were about love and trying to find love. Evolution can also be a belief-system. Some people do not believe that God or a higher-being created humanity, they believe that evolution was the cause of all animals and humans on earth. Evolutionists believe that chimpanzees, gorillas, and monkeys are common ancestors of humans. There has been a lot of debate over evolution and whether it should be taught in certain schools. To humanity, evolution is a belief system and can describe how things on earth change through out time.

(99) M

What evolution means to me? Evolution does exist on a species to species basis. Organism are capable of adapting over time to their environment, its been seen in this century. One great example is shown in athletes. Over the past 50 years, athletes have become statistically faster and have shown increases in reaction time. Species adapt to their environment.

What I do not understand is how we, as humans can evolve from another species. Yes, we are 98% genetically similar, apes and humans. But does that mean we evolved from them? I admit that I have done no research about the subject of evolution, so my knowledge is very little.

I had a friend that called evolution "Natures Best Guess." There has to be an answer for everything, and when you cannot find one, you make educational guesses based on evidence. Evolution is supposed to be the answer to our existence, providing that there is no "God." Though evolution has never been proved 100%, scientists claim it as the only logical truth to how we got here.

Ask any follower of Christ and they will argue against evolution and how it is impossible. Ask any hard-nosed scientist and they will argue for evolution and how it is the only thing that makes sense. I believe that when you look at the human body, its complexity and intricate muscles, tendons, bodily organs and everything else, its hard to believe that we evolved from essentially nothing. One last thought:

We are the only species with complex emotions and ability to reason. How does that evolve?

(100) F

Evolution is a word that has always had a negative context in my childhood. I was raised in a Christian family, and I have been taught, and I believe, that God is the creator of the universe and everything in it. Although I believe this, I feel that it would be somewhat ignorant to ignore the existence of evolution in our world today. I have not studied the topic of evolution in detail, because I attended a private Christian high school and we were not taught about the theory of evolution, for that reason, I feel somewhat lacking in knowledge in this area.

I know that things like natural selection and the evolutions of different species have taken place and continue to take place. This is an important concept for humanity because we are living in a world that is constantly changing and evolving and we need to be aware of those changes. I do not believe that humans evolved through the process of evolution but I do believe that since the creation of the universe things have evolved over time. After all, that is the definition of evolution- constant change. This is something that I believe has been happening since creation and something that will continue to happen as long as the earth exists. When it comes to proving that evolution is true, I have no idea where to begin. I do not know what evidence is out there to support it, or how accurate any of it is, but what I do know, is that I believe in God and I believe He is the Creator of the universe.

(101) F

Every time I hear the word evolution I automatically picture the famous image of the chain of “ancestors” starting with the hunched over chimp on the left and ending with the perfectly erect human on the right. Honestly, I am not too sure if I believe humans really evolved from monkeys or not. I lean more towards the side thinking some high power created human beings (no matter how weird that sounds). To me, evolution just means the overall change throughout time. Evolution happens everywhere, from the giraffes in the jungles of Africa to the penguins in Antarctica to the very squirrels in your backyard. In some cases evolution may be necessary while in others it may not. Most of all it is the way organisms change to become a better fit in their environment.

I think the way humanity views evolution and the way I view evolution is totally different. Not saying that there are not people out there who feel the same as I do, for I am sure there are plenty. But I think the idea of humans evolving from monkeys is what most of the population thinks of when evolution is brought up. With this being the initial thought I think a lot of the population has a negative reaction towards evolution. They do not really know the true meaning of it. The fact that it is a necessity to survive and is most likely the reason we are still alive today being the most prominent species on Earth.

(102) M

I have always thought about the origins of life, and why things happen in this complex world called Earth. Constantly, I looked for the truth about life, but it seems so complicated because all the ideas that try to answer the question of how life developed, at the end are not totally reliable. It is so magnificent when you think about the nature of life and the functions that every single organism has on Earth that you start asking yourself how is it possible. Just by watching how the bean you planted in a small pot in your room grows, how every single organism reproduce to produce the next generation, or even how some insects adapt to pesticides and quickly reproduce to keep on surviving in a harsh environment; it is amazing. So, is there something that could be called evolution? It is hard to answer this since there are many ideas that prove to certain extent that evolution is truth, as well as there are other ideas the prove the contrary. By reading my biology professors ideas about evolution I can say that he inclines to the fact that evolution is the most reasonable explanation of how life develops. Many people know about the idea of evolution and even talk about it, but I’m not sure if they really understand it or think of it like a biologist. You can see evolution everywhere, from the most common thing on Earth to the most complex. But how does organisms evolved? Is it something that they naturally do or might it be an external factor like nature that make organisms change? Based on what I have read on evolution, it is the way how organisms change to adapt to a problem or a situation. Many say that organisms react to situations due to their instinct, but I will argue that those instincts come from how organisms evolved in order to react to those situations.

(103) M

I believe evolution is the backbone to all of humanity and our planet as a whole. The earth started a dark, hot place and over time microscopic organisms were able to live and thrive. Tiny plant stems were soon springing out

of the ground and organisms began to develop in the seas. Eventually, these unicellular organisms began to grow and multiplied and soon enough there were whole multicellular organisms living in earth's waters. Years later they evolved enough to crawl onto land and continued to evolve. Then mammals were eventually present, and with them came *Homo sapiens* millions of years later. Without this evolution, there is no scientific explanation for humanity or any life on earth. When it comes to religion, I view the story of creationism as a symbolic piece. Symbols are found all over the Bible in both the New and Old Testament, so it's quite possible the story of creationism is too. I believe the seven days was really a span of millions of years, and even if it was the power of a higher being, that higher being still used evolution to make humanity and life on earth what it is today. With this being said, regardless of religion, evolution is still the fundamental principle behind humanity's life on Earth and all other life on earth. In the next millions of years evolution will continue to change the organisms living here on this planet, hopefully evolving to a point where fewer resources are used so humanity does not run out of the resources needed to sustain life.

(104) M

According to www.talkorigins.org, biological evolution is defined as change in the properties of populations of organisms that transcend the lifetime of a single individual. The ontogeny of an individual is not considered evolution; individual organisms do not evolve. The changes in populations that are considered evolutionary are those that are inheritable via the genetic material from one generation to the next. Biological evolution may be slight or substantial; it embraces everything from slight changes in the proportion of different alleles within a population (such as those determining blood types) to the successive alterations that led from the earliest proto organism to snails, bees, giraffes, and dandelions."

The most interesting thing I've recently heard about evolution is the discovery and debate over Ardi, or in more scientific terms, *Ardipithecus ramidus*. Some scientists suggest that Ardi is the closest thing to the missing link between humans and apes. They say that Ardi's feet were rigid enough to allow her to walk upright some of the time, but she still had a grasping big toe for use in climbing trees. This shows that Ardi was living during the important part of human history when we were transitioning from living in trees to being more suitable to life on the ground. Other scientists say that Ardi is just another ape. They say that just because Ardi has ape like features doesn't prove that she's a decedent of humans because she doesn't have a lot of the unique parts that humans have. They also say that there aren't enough pieces of Ardi to fully construct her and that the dating of her fossils as being 4.4 million years old is probably inaccurate because anything over a few thousand years old is very hard to accurately date and states that Ardi is probably only five thousand years old.

This discussion over Ardi causes me to question a lot of scientific findings today. I feel that there is a strong possibility that we can be very inaccurate with our pursuit to understand the past history of the earth and all the life forms that lived on it. Everything we discover and seek to explain can only be assumed in regards to the specific way an organism lived like in the past, its habits and etc.

(105) F

The dictionary definition of Evolution is the change in the genetic material of a population of organisms from one generation to the next. Although these changes are not very evident at first and miniscule, they can become a larger and even produce new species. The similarity between species leads some to believe everything came from one common ancestor. Evolution is the product of two opposing forces, processes that constantly introduce variation, and processes that make variants either become more common. It is said that new variations appear from either mutations in genes or the transfer of genes between populations and between species.

In today's society evolution has proven to be more accurate to some scientists, while according to theists, they find it difficult to believe. There are many theories about evolution revolving around either religion or creation. This subject is very controversial in public and isn't spoken about often, especially the evolution of humans. Some people thought that human mental and moral faculties, were purely spiritual, and not distinctly separated from those of other animals. I went to a public school so talking about such subjects as evolution, and abortion were not allowed. Therefore I do not know much about the subject. I am Catholic but am not very strong in my religion, but am not much of a scientific thinker either. This subject has me caught dead in the middle. I'm not sure if I believe we evolved scientifically or if it was God's doing? At this point in my life I am leaning more towards science, but am not completely sure.

(106) F

What comes to mind when discussing evolution is the father that brought evolution to life, Charles Darwin. When Darwin went to the Galapagos Islands he analyzed the differences within the species. He discovered that organisms within the species had to evolve to survive in the environment in which they lived in. Back in his day, Darwin was a profoundly known person that broke the envelope to the norm of the society. Most people in his era were opposed of his findings on evolution, because most believed in religion instead of evolution.

Evolution is an idea that Darwin created when he found difference within a species. He came to a conclusion that within species change will occur, if given a new environment to live in. For an example, *Pelecanus occidentalis* is an organism within a species that has different traits or trait then their relative *Pelecanus crispus*. *Pelecanus occidentalis* is brown, lives in a different environment, and much smaller than *Pelecanus crispus*. The change in genetics from one pelican to the other shows that there some form of evolution out there.

After Darwin had came up with the idea of evolution it had been tested and used in many experiments and with his findings we have expanded our knowledge on genetics, heredity, diversity...etc in organisms.

In this day of age people can now feel free to believe in whatever they want to believe in, but there may be sanctions towards their belief. In our generation there is a variety of people that believe in evolution and in "God". There is no right from wrong when it comes down to how we were created.

(107) F

Evolution is a very controversial topic commonly found in today's society. The definition of evolution according to the Biology-Online Dictionary is, "The change in genetic composition of a population over successive generations, which may be caused by natural selection, inbreeding, hybridization, or mutation." When I hear the term evolution I think of the general idea of monkeys evolving into human beings. In the religious view of evolution I think of God creating human beings. But which one do we suppose to believe? After being raised in more of a religious view my opinion on evolution leans more toward god creating everything. But how can we prove that god created us? However, after being presented with Darwin's principles of evolution it makes me question the religious view. It makes sense that humans evolved from monkeys, because they have similar characteristics and bone structures. However, being educated through both school and church I believe evolution is a combined definition of the two theories.

(108) M

Darwin's Theory of Evolution is a widely held notion that all life is related and has descended from a common ancestor. Darwin states that people have evolved from basically nothing and that complex creatures evolve from more simplistic ancestors over time. He states that random genetic mutations occur within an organism's genetic code. To me, evolution means that us as Homo sapiens evolved from basically nothing. Evolution to humanity in general means that without evolution taking place, nothing in this world would even exist. It is said that we, as humans, developed along the lines of chimpanzees, which I think is believable. I think that the way chimps walk is somewhat close to the way we walk. Although the evolutionary theory is believed by some people, I on the other hand believe in the one and only God, the father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. It is hard for me to believe that we can evolve from basically nothing. We are such complex organisms and I can't even imagine how we developed from a simplistic organism that is so small, and develop into such large human beings. I am one to believe that God put me, you, and everything else here on this earth, and without him, none of us or anything in the whole universe would exist. Although people may not believe in my beliefs about God and everything that I believe in, I am open to learning more about Darwin's Theory of Evolution because I don't know much about it, other than we basically evolved from nothing.

(109) F

The prompt for this writing is to define evolution, what it means to me and to all of humanity, and for our writings to be creative and original. According to biology, evolution is the idea that living species descended from older species. The species form changed from what it once was to what it is today. It also describes genetic changes in the population over many generations. To put evolution into more simple terms it is the changes over time that gives us all our own individual genetic makeup and our looks for instance.

Evolution to me means both of these definitions. I think that evolution is true and that we would not be here if it was not. I believe this because it is the most logical answer I could come up with as to why humans are here today. If it did not occur we would be a bunch of crazy monkeys running and jumping around like, well, animals! We have evolved into much more complex species today. It is the explanation of humanity.

Some people may not believe in evolution due to religious reasons but I am not really religious and I form my own views on different issues and concepts. For example, I cannot see how God made only two people, Adam and Eve, the ones responsible for all of our lives. I think it came from the theory of evolution instead. It is more believable to me because it has occurred right before our own eyes.

(110) F

To me evolution is the basis of what makes our species the way we are today. We all developed from a common ancestor and the way we have adapted from that common ancestor is what makes us the unique way that we are today. The common ancestor, that is said that we all derived from, is a chimpanzee. As weird as it may seem I can see how they would think that we evolved from this creature. We have the same structure as a chimp and we share some of the common instincts that chimpanzees have also. I remember sometime a couple years ago when we watched a show on the discovery channel in biology. The video was of this group of people, I can't remember where from, but they were walking on four legs just like that of a chimp. When reading this question I thought about this video because they walked around as if they were chimpanzees and as if they have not evolved into walking on two legs. When thinking about this video I believe that it is true that we all had a common ancestor and that was the chimp. Humans have evolved a lot in the last couple hundred years. We are able to walk on two legs, and we have been able to evolve to the point where were not so dependent on others. I think with the concept of evolution you are not going to get everyone to believe in the same things as you, it's mostly an opinion. Different people believe in different things, which is another way that evolution has worked. People are able to think for themselves and adapt to the world in the way that they want to.

(111) F

When people think of the word evolution, there are so many possibilities to what they are thinking about. Most think of evolution as the Big Bang Theory, and humans coming from monkeys. A lot of people believe that the Earth created itself through one massive cosmic occurrence. After this occurred, theorists say that prokaryotes like bacteria and archaea started appearing. And, supposedly all life spanned from these organisms. If this is the true definition of evolution, I in no way believe in it. I believe more in Intelligent Design and the whole Adam and Eve story, of course because of my religion. However, just because I believe this way, doesn't mean that I don't believe in some sort of evolution. I do believe in a different definition of evolution. This type of evolution just means changing over time. I believe that things are evolving (changing) every day. People "evolve" from the time they are born until the time they die. It is obvious to see changes that occur over a lifetime. Animals have also evolved through time. I believe that some animals that God created may have died out, and not all that were first created are still alive today. I also believe that culture and society are included in the definition of "evolution". The way people live and communicate has evolved greatly over many, many years. We now have houses, television and air conditioning, when people used to live in teepees or grass huts. These are the types of things that I consider to be encompassed in the word "evolution".

(112) F

Dictionary.com has many different definition of what evolution is. One of the basic and simplest definitions listed was any process of formation or growth. The biological definition of it is listed as a change in the gene pool of a population from generation to generation by such processes as mutation, natural selection, and genetic drift. Some say evolution is a theory, some say it's a fact, and some say it's both.

Evolution is nothing that I worry about. I honestly do not have much of an interest in this topic because I don't really sit and question it. Technically evolution happens every day. People are constantly evolving and changing and becoming different. It's a part of life SO what is the big deal about it? I don't get the whole hype about this "O-M-G!! It's Evolution!!" deal that people are on. Maybe it's just me. Then it's like is this something

that I should care about? Is it going to affect my future? I thought the only thing I needed to worry about was staying alive and global warming. But then again maybe it is just Ma'Kayla.

As far as humanity needing to worry about evolution, yeah sure I guess. It always has to be at least one person worrying about stuff and making sure there particular part is in order. Why is it such a big phenomenon though? I think I am just simply out the loop.

One of the reasons I feel that I may not be that interested in the topic, theory, whatever of evolution is because I don't believe that earthly forces are truly the ones that created earth and how it is today. My religious beliefs are probably the huge factor that affects my cares about evolution. At the end of the day I believe that God is the creator of all beings. Any scientist can go ahead and argue that. At the end of the day, that's my theory and I'm sticking to it!

(113) M

Evolution is not something I have really taken into consideration ever. I really don't quite feel comfortable talking about all of these philosophical questions such as this because I don't really ever do my own research on these subjects in order to form an opinion. All that I know about evolution is that my religion does not believe in it. I do not want anyone to think that I am small minded and that I can't think for myself, but I completely believe that there is a higher being out there that can do anything that their heart desires. I do have to admit that evolution makes a lot of sense to me and it has a lot of valid premises. I think that it is ok to teach evolution in schools, because it helps us learn not just about evolution but about other subjects in science, like aspects of genetics. I think that it is dumb that there is such huge arguments over whether evolution can be taught in public schools. I believe that it should be up to parents to decide whether their children will be taught that or not, and it should be easy for schools to adjust accordingly. Evolution in society will always be one of those things that will always be argued about, and I think that that is ok because it is good for people to get their own ideas out into the world. I believe that this exchange of ideas creates more knowledge not just between people, but cultures and religions. I think that athiests are ok that they do not believe in a higher being because at least they feel strongly about something and their ideas aren't being suppressed, which makes for happy people, no matter how they feel about evolution.

(114) M

Evolution is a very touchy subject between churches and the science world. For me personally, I have been drawn back and forth to what I believe is the true story. I was raised to believe in god and how creatures from all walks of life were produced on this planet.

The church side of me makes me believe that God made everything on this planet. I believe that there is a God. But find it hard to believe that he made everything on this planet in return for believers in him. I believe in praying and going to church so have my sins forgotten so that the day I die I will ascend into heaven. But the scientific side of this issue pulls on me hard. This is mainly because they have evidence as proof of their ideas. They are able to show us how closely we are related to apes and how our DNA and make up resembles past creatures. This impacts humanity very much, in that everybody wants the question answered of where we came from. Some find this answer in the bible and others find this answer in science. The theory of evolution is able to show us how we most likely came about to be the intelligent creatures we are today. How we learned what we know today through trial and error. Whereas the bible tells us that God gave us this knowledge on purpose in order for us to be more advanced creatures than others. This question has gone through most everybody's minds. My personal opinion is that we evolved through evolution as the scientists have found. But God keeps us believing that there is actually a place for us after death.

(115) F

The prompt for this week's writing is to define evolution and how it affects humanity and the world around us. To me evolution means everything to the world. It once started out as a dark place with no life, and then it grew with organisms being able to live on a place where there use to be no chance of living. Then more and more organisms started to thrive and live on earth. It all started with a common ancestor. One ancestor, evolving over time and branching out into new organisms from that one ancestor. Then those new organisms evolving over time, branching into more new organisms, and so on.

While some people believe in the religious side of evolution, where God made two people, Adam and Eve, and they made everything on this earth. I don't necessarily believe that. There is no way two people could make everything on this earth. I believe that evolution is what has made everything on this earth. That one thing, or one organism, evolved into something new. It is said that humans evolved from apes by evolution. I believe this to be true because there have been experiments done, there have been studies proven that apes evolved into humans. Evolution is where something changes over time and produces something new with different genetic makeup than the first. Overall, I believe in the theory of evolution rather than the religious side of evolution. I believe that evolution is the makeup of humanity and the world we live in today.

(116) M

On the topic of evolution and what it means to me is something that I don't really know a lot about. I know that what I know about evolution is very important to the world. If all the animals on the earth never evolved than the world would not be what it is today. We would be the same as when the world first started. Humans would not be here and almost everything else that is living on this planet would not be here. So on the question of how important is evolution to us, I would say that it is the most important thing to humans and all other animals. The crazy thing about evolution is to think about how things will be in 100 years or even 10,000 years. I mean when you look back on just 100 years back and see all of the new things that we have and how far we have come it just blows my mind. I definitely think that evolution will continue to happen for all species on earth. Who knows, maybe someday there will be other animals that turn out to be similar to humans, as in they could talk and think. Writing this assignment has made me think a lot about what the world will be like in 10,000 years. And all I can say is that I wish I could be around, or see what the earth will be like in the 10,000 years from now.

(117) F

Evolution, to me, means growth and development. For millions of years evolution has been taking place in all living organisms. Evolution has allowed for the development of everything we see around us. The development of organisms is essential to our environment. We adapt to the ever-changing environment, and if a change is significant we continue our adaptation and evolve to survive and grow. I believe humanity would eventually cease to exist without evolution. We need evolution to continue to development. Without evolution we would cease to adapt to changing conditions, conditions that if severe enough could possibly destroy even the most complex organisms. Evolution is learning and taking what is learned and applying it the current conditions. If conditions are altered, an organism must learn from the altered conditions and adapt to the changes. It's hard to imagine how life would be if evolution stopped thousands of years ago. As species continue to evolve, stronger and smarter species are born. These species are able to adapt better, which is why they survive. Those who cannot adapt do not survive. If humans stopped adapting to changes it's quite possible that eventually the human race would cease to exist. Adaptation is essential to evolution and evolution is essential to the continuation of life.

(118) F

Topics like Evolution always seem to raise eyebrows for one main reason: it's very controversial. Typically, there are two different views of what exactly evolution is. One route is more geared towards religion, while the other takes on a biological standpoint. Evolution is defined as a change in biological material of a population of organisms from one generation to the next.

Some think that evolution doesn't even exist and that God started it all. According to the Bible, the Earth was created in seven days. Adam and Eve were the first two people created and all the other human beings on the Earth were sprouted from them.

This can be a controversial issue because many people think that humans evolved from other similar species such as apes. Over time these organisms have modified; weak traits have diminished and the good traits have been passed on from one generation to the next this is also known as natural selection. This theory goes all the way back to the eighteenth century. Other theories such as the Big Bang theory states that all the matter in universe and exploded and then BOOM everything was created.

Evolution is one of the most controversial issues on the table. There is no way that we can go back to the beginning of time when the Earth was created and see where exactly humans came or evolved from. This topic will continue to be argued over since there is no way that we can pinpoint an answer on how exactly humans came about.

(119) F

Evolution is the process through which living organisms evolve. It is through this scientific process that species can adjust to whatever is necessary for their survival. If species didn't change and evolve they'd be left behind by other fellow evolving species and the only outcome would be their eventual extinction. Evolution is an idea that should mean a lot to humanity because we have done extremely well. Humans are at the top of the food chain, and we continue to thrive and prosper all over the earth. Most importantly we have evolved to a level in which we possess the highest intellect of any species.

It's a very scary thing to imagine living in a world where humans has slowed to a point where other species "pass us up" in either intellect or reaching the top of the food chain. Personally I don't believe that anything event such as this will happen for a very long time. Yet it is still a mind-blowing idea to think about what would humans do? What would happen to our civilization? What is coming will come. Species can't speed up the process of evolution or become puppet masters- controlling the situation of how we and other species evolve in comparison to each other.

Evolution is a proven concept. Humans can see the past and present effects of this process. With a deeper examination we can begin to see evolution as futuristic- as fate. The thesis statement I would give to the idea of evolution would be...Evolution is fate. A person can see what it has done, and can perceive what it is doing, we can only guestimate what it will become.

(120) M

To me evolution means the way all living organisms adapt to their environments, climates, predators, and anything else that can cause them harm or death. I think it is natural for all organisms to evolve. No living thing wishes to cease to exist, and that is what would happen if they did not evolve. The purpose of evolution is to make all organisms better and increase their chances of survival. If an organism encounters a problem and survives it, it will learn from that problem and take precaution not to let it happen again. Evolution can occur both over long periods of time and also in a short amount of time. For some species they evolve over generations and may even develop alterations to their body structure in order to give themselves a better chance at survival.

Evolution is important to me because we would not be here if it was not for evolution. I am glad that I am alive right now and that I can live in a safe environment. If evolution did not exist I would not be living in a safe environment because humanity would not have learned how to better protect itself. Evolution made me into the person that I am today. I have had to evolve throughout my nineteen years of life. I have had troubles and have been forced to persevere. I have had injuries to my body and my body has undergone certain changes in order for me to recover and keep living my life.

(121) M

Evolution, to me, is simply three words, "The Development Of". Evolution has played a role in life, and even technology to me, since the beginning of time. In the early days of man and many other organisms, life has changed many and many times again. Many animals have disappeared because of evolution, while some have heavily evolved, and others have remained the exact same that they are. For man, SOME people, not including myself, believe that man started out as a monkey that walked upright. If that's what they would like to believe, then so be it. For me, I'll go with something as simple as Adam and Eve. Regardless of the fact, we eventually evolved to become what we are now. Technology and reasoning have also evolved. For simple building tools of the A.D's and B.C's, to us flying to the moon, to now. But as often said in the media, technology has also been the reason that the world will end. Isaac Newton, as I was recently watching on the History channel in the series Nostradamus Effect, believes the world will end in 2060. One of the greatest scientists in the history of man has said it himself. Also, this brings me to another question. How exactly were the Mayans and Egyptians so ahead of their time? The Mayans with such an accurate calendar that it's misinterpreted very often. They must've had some sort of astronomical education to predict such phenomena's. Also, the Egyptians with such a strong will for building great pyramids must've had some sort of building education that we STILL really don't know of. Evolution has and will always play a BIG role in humanity, animals, plants, and every other organism that the planet has to offer. It's literally ALL around us, and if we pay close attention and continue to find out more and more about the earth, then the more we will keep an understanding of Evolution itself.

(122) F

The prompt this week is evolution which is a very controversial topic for not only the church but even the science world. I believe that evolution is not so much looked at anymore as someone's theory but more of a way of how some people live. The definition of evolution according to the Biology-Online Dictionary is, "The change in genetic composition of a population over successive generations, which may be caused by natural selection, inbreeding, hybridization, or mutation." For me, I do not believe in evolution what so ever because the big bang theory comes into play with evolution and that is simply against the beliefs I have. I do think that certain parts of evolution are realistic like the fact that man has grown and evolved a lot since the stone ages. I believe that everyone has the right to an opinion and whether you believe that humans evolved from a monkey or you believe in a higher power, it is really up to you. But I also do think that you can only believe in one or the other, not both.

Evolution is something that I think will always be argued about for many years. There really is no happy medium between views and I don't think there ever will be.

(123) F

There are dozens of different definitions of evolution. But there is one specific definition that I believe says everything, and that is that evolution is change in genetic material of a population from one generation to the next. There are many other people who may not believe that the definition above is really what evolution is.

Evolution is a very sensitive topic. I guess it's just hard to make people believe that a human developed out of a chimp. There is a huge split between evolutionary views. The line is drawn between the church and the scientific world. The church says that there was no evolution and that god created all. God created Adam and Eve and all other human beings were created from them. The scientific side of the argument says that then human race was evolved from on ape. Overtime this ape evolved and eventually stood up rite.

The evolution from ape to man happened through a process called natural selection. Which is essentially the diminishing of the weak and only the strongest and best remain.

Obviously this is a very sensitive subject. And the way a person views evolution all depends on the way they were raised.

(124) M

Evolution to me means many things. The first of which is that without it the world would seem to not progress. Also, if there was no evolution then every species would die.

What I mean by that the world would not progress is simple. First off, evolution is the change of a species. So if there was not evolution then there would be no change. No change would mean that there was difference within a species. If there was no difference within the species then there would not be any progress. Furthermore, if there was no change or evolution then the species would die. The species would die because of a thing called survival of the fittest. Survival of the fittest means that a certain organism within the species must make some improvement to get more food. Therefore, if the organism doesn't make a change to get more food then it will die. You may think that this would be good for that organisms prey. However this means that there would be an abundance of the prey. This organism would then have to fight for food and if there was no evolution then it could not advance its food gathering skills. The organism would soon die off as well, due to lack of food.

In conclusion, without evolution the entire global ecosystem would die off. Every living thing would soon die and the earth would no longer be known as the living planet. Evolution is key to life. Understanding of evolution is a very important lesson that should be taught in every biology class, which it is so that is great.

(125) M

A friend of mine once told me that the quickest way to end a date is to bring up either politics or religion, and I'd say that evolution could safely fall into either of those categories. It has become commonplace to believe that evolution and creationism cannot coexist, and the two extremes are constantly attempting to disprove the other.

I would personally say that evolution has the upper hand in terms of evidence, but I am from the school of thought that it is possible for the two theories to exist with each other. Perhaps I am naïve to think that, but I was raised to believe that there is an omnipotent being pulling on the strings of our lives. I refuse, however, to reject the idea of evolution. With the extensiveness of the fossil records archeologists have collected, I would consider myself to be ignorant if I ignored them. At the same time, I cannot look around me and convince myself that all of what surrounds me was a mistake, or some fluke of an atom collision. I suppose that my ideologies are more of an attempt to find a middle ground that may not exist.

That doesn't answer the question of what evolution means to humanity, though. I suppose, if I were forced to answer that question, I would say that finding indisputable proof of evolution – I mean, without a sane doubt, humans absolutely did come from apes, which absolutely did evolve from a single cell which was the start of everything – is finding a key to anarchy. That answer boils down to whether or not morality can exist in a religion-less world. It would be an interesting situation should it ever come to fruition, but I hope to be long removed from this world and sent to whichever god I choose by the day it does.

(126) F

Evolution is who I am, who we are, and what our ecosystem is based on. It is what accounts for who I am today. It does not just account for me; humanity in general is due to evolution. Without evolution I would not be on this planet. The parents who made me would not have survived to provide the egg and the sperm that united to construct the very cells that formed me. Evolution has enabled the species of Homo sapiens in which I belong to evolve and thrive in this world.

Along with this, it also deserves credit for the existence of every living organism I depend on. The list of these organisms is simply countless. For instance, the oxygen in which my body relies upon is produced by plants, which by evolution have perfected the process of photosynthesis. It is photosynthesis that provides me with the oxygen I breathe. Plants have also evolved into an abundant food source I utilize every single day. Through millions of years plants have developed into organisms that provide the energy I need to function.

Plants are not the only form of evolution I depend on. Animals play a very important role in my life as well. From these animals I also acquire necessary energy for my everyday life. I gain proteins for muscles and body functions with the intake of their meat. Had animals not undergone evolution, they would not be available for me to eat.

Evolution holds a much deeper meaning than what may surface when you consider its definition. When a species evolves, it does not just improve the survival of itself. Evolution allows my survival. It enables the survival of humanity in general. In fact, evolution advances the survival of our entire ecosystem.

(127) F

Evolution has always been a controversial issue. There is always the debate between the Church and science. I was brought up in the Catholic faith and studied at a Catholic school, so I was always taught that God made everything in six days and on the seventh day he rested. He made man out of dirt, and took a rib from him to make female. They were the ones responsible for naming the animals and taking care of the land. The End.

But science does not see evolution as a happy fairy tale. Science sees evolution as the change of species. It evolves over time to adapt to certain changes in the climate and even in the world. Species weed out the weak or better known as Survival of the Fittest. If an animal does not have a certain quality that will help them survive, then they die out.

Another common view of evolution is humans that evolve from apes. Everybody has seen the famous diagram from ape, to caveman looking creature, to human. We evolve from a weaker specimen to a strong form of being. I had to explain to my 8 year old cousin what evolution was, and I simply explained it like Pokemons. If you train your Pokemon to be strong so it can win its battles, then it will evolve to a larger, better Pokemon with cooler, more powerful powers. If you do not train it, it does not win any battles, and it will die.

Overall, the debate of Church and science will always remain strong, but the main focus is, that humans are the highest supreme, they are the Fittest of the Fit, they are the most powerful Pokemon.

(128) F

Evolution, what is evolution to me? I feel that evolution is what makes things or what things are. The real definition of evolution is idea that living species are descendants of ancestral species that were different from present-day ones; also the genetic changes in a population over generations. What it exactly means to me is that it is like I said before, what things are. Evolution may be the process of animals from the past to the present, like the general make-up and how it changes throughout its lifetime. Like the word "evolve", the animal or organism evolves into something else. Maybe it only has a few changes, or maybe it has so many changes you don't believe that it was what it was before. There are so many different animals out there that have evolved or become something other than its original self, for example, many fish, or the best example would probably be a primate. In humanity, the word evolution is probably very important, especially to those who are interested in where they

come from. The whole term is pretty much evolution. There are so many ways to describe what is and how evolution works as a whole. There are many questions to evolution as to how it works and what exactly it is. Evolution happens every day and will be around forever. The real question is what will be next in evolution, will it harm the environment or humanity as a whole. Evolution will always be the changing of different things around the world, there will always be a new present-day.

(129) M

Evolution to me is a very hard thing to talk about with a huge group of people, because everyone has different views and there are many different theories to how we human beings came to be. Some people believe the Adam and Eve thing and that there were no humans and then in an instant God made them, but I don't really believe that. I believe more in evolution and not so much that other stuff, but I won't get in to that because that's a whole other story.

To me evolution is what helped the species on the earth change over the billions of years in order for them to survive. Some would develop certain traits so help them catch food, fight, think, and move. If they did not advance then they would die and those bad traits would die with them. They had to become better in order to survive. I think that is essentially how we came to be. Our ancestors kept evolving until they started getting more developed brains, and started walking more upright, because those abilities helped them in some way to survive. They just recently found the remains of the oldest skeleton that humanity has found so far. It has been put in the evolutionary tree and shows that we are a branch from it along with monkeys and apes. So we technically didn't evolve from the monkeys we see today, but from something else. That is pretty much how I feel about evolution.

(130) M

I believe that evolution in itself is a mysterious way of life. It seems to look like such an easy process I mean you just simply change over time but I no there is so much more. It involves such complex little organisms but yet these organisms make up life itself. I think the biggest question that blows my mind about evolution is does it ever stop? Can you be at the peak of evolution? And if you can then what? What happens when you can't change anymore? I think humans have grow so accustomed to the way everything is in daily life they don't notice small changes. For instance everyone knows that tomorrow is a different day then today but do they actually sit down and think "Today will never come again"? I don't believe so, I no I don't actually sit down and think "Hey tomorrow will never come again." So basically what i am getting at is would anyone actually noticed if evolution came to a complete stop? I can't really answer that question but I can guess yes and no. Yes because I think people would sit there and realize that they are not aging or changing at all after all I think aging is simply another process in evolution. And I believe no because evolution is such a slow process it takes times for most things to evolve 100s of 1000s of years in fact. So basically what I am getting at is evolution is so complex it simply blows my mind. Where did it start? Where will it end if at all? These are all questions I don't plan on knowing in this lifetime.

(131) M

Evo'lution – (*noun*) a theory that the various types of animals and plants have their origin in other preexisting types and that the distinguishable differences are due to modifications in successive generations -provided by Merriam-Webster.com

When the word evolution pops up, I always think of the definition above, which lead to think about biology. I immediately begin to think about how things have evolved over the years and, once in awhile, how they might evolve in the future. I usually think about how amazing it is that every species today could have evolved from a singled cellular organism, if that theory is true. Often times after these thoughts go through my head, I think about my Catholic faith and how important it is to me. I do not, at all, reject the idea of evolution, but I also believe that God is the creator of the universe and has planned all this stuff out, but this isn't about religion so I'll get off the subject. This word can mean so many things for me and humanity. It shows us the process of natural selection and that, in a general sense, the most successful ones are usually better off. It can also teach us about our distant past, by finding fossils and how the earth may have been millions of years ago. It's one of those words that make you ask the "why" questions and can make a person ponder a variety of thoughts, like how exactly did the dinosaurs disappear. Although I think some of these questions may never be answered, so we will have to wait

and see. As technology advances and scientists continue to search for the answers evolution may provide, we may, someday, be able to answer all of those “why” questions.

(132) M

Evolution—an issue of hot debate among scholars and the religious. One claims to have modern science on their side, the other sides with God. Which one is correct? Did we evolve from a single cell or was it the result of intelligent design? To say which is most likely true would do nothing to persuade either side to change their outlook. But why can it not be that both sides have their way? Who is to say that God didn’t plant the seeds of early creation and let evolution proliferate and create the world we know today? Certainly those who side with science often dismiss the “God-factor,” finding it irrelevant as nothing can prove the existence of a superior being. But likewise the religious are quick to latch to the Bible—insisting God’s word tells of factual history. However, it must be remembered that the Bible is primarily a book of religion, a guide to faith. It was not a book of history, poetry, economics, or science. It contains all sorts of literary genre, which are used to teach about the relationship between God and mankind. Both seem to say they have the upper hand—the concreteness of science vs. the absoluteness of God. In my opinion there is no need for “picking sides,” each theory or belief can coexist harmoniously. God sparks the creation of the world; evolution occurs and continues to occur—ever changing the world as we know it. There is no need to make labels such as “evolutionist” or “creationist,” no method of explaining how we got here today is superior to the other. Both have validity. Believing in evolution does not revoke your stake in heaven.