

# Introduction to Philosophy

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## Extra Credit #5: Intelligent Design on Trial

### Due Date

Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, at the beginning of class.

Late extra credit assignments will *not* be accepted unless you and I agree on a reasonable accommodation *prior* to this due date.

### Instructions

Your write-up should be 250–300 words in length and conform to the course's "General Technical Requirements for Formatting Papers". This should be submitted as a computer-type-written hardcopy directly to me.

This extra credit assignment has you watch a video, available online, and do a short write-up addressing some questions about it.

### Topic

Watch *Judgment Day: Intelligent Design on Trial*, and answer the following questions. You can watch the movie online at:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/evolution/intelligent-design-trial.html>

This movie is long, nearly two hours, so make sure you have plenty of time.

### Questions

1. What exactly is the difference between evolution and intelligent design? Why do proponents of each theory view the two theories as incompatible?
2. What findings in the fossil record (such as those made by paleontologist Neil Schubin) and genetics (such as those discussed by biologist Kenneth Miller) appear to confirm the theory of evolution? Is this a serious blow to intelligent design or can it account for these findings?
3. At the trial, the biochemist Michael J. Behe uses the bacterial flagellum to illustrate intelligent design. How is this example supposed to support intelligent design? However, bacterial flagellum expert David DeRosier denies this, saying the flagellum is clearly a product of natural selection. What is DeRosier's evidence? Who has the most compelling argument?