

## Creationism

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2012 Essay Contest

What do you believe in? Your answer to this simple question could change how you are viewed as a person in our society whether you are in school or out in the real world. Did you know that in a Gallup poll taken in April 2009, it says that 77% of Americans identify themselves as Christians? Should creationism, believing that God created Heaven and Earth and everything on it, be taught in our school today? Well, ask yourself this question, would you want to be beaten down and judged if you believe the “wrong” thing and not what others expect you to believe?

The phrase “separation of church and state” is a phrase used by Thomas Jefferson in a 1802 letter to the Danbury Baptists and others expressing an understanding of the intent and function of the Establishment Clause and Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. The phrase has since been repeatedly cited by the Supreme Court of the United States. In *Everson v. Board of Education* (1947), Justice Hugo Black wrote: “In the words of Thomas Jefferson, the clause against establishment of religion by law was intended to erect a wall of separation between church and state.” The Supreme Court of the United States has not always interpreted this constitutional principle as an absolute and the proper extent of separation between government and religion in the United States remains an ongoing subject of impassioned debate.

I believe that Creationism is based on believing something that is unobservable and not based on something scientific. Science deals with things that are observable. Religion deals

with belief and faith. This leads me to believe that Creationism is religion, not science. Also, if schools were to teach creationism, which version would they teach? There are several, Hare Krishnas, Buddhism and the Mormons all have different views on creationism. There is also the argument that creationism should be taught in a history class, as opposed to a science class.

I don't believe creationism should be taught in schools because, even though the majority of us are Christians, some are different and are picked on every day for that reason. I, myself being Christian, find it to be my duty to try and bring others to Christ, but not by being mean and aggressive about my beliefs. When people tell someone they are going to Hell because they don't believe in God, they are only making them mad and upset. Students should be able to go to school and believe what ever they want, without the pressure and possible disapproval from other students.

Why is it that this generation expects everyone to be like them and believe what they believe? Is it really hard to except people for who they are? Teaching Creationism needs to be left to the parents at home and at their respective churches. Bringing religion into school is a bad idea because it's just another reason for some students to hide and be afraid to come to school simply because they feel like they can't be accepted or like because they believe in the "wrong" thing.

Though the education system should promote critical thinking, it should also be based on factual information. I believe that the Constitution states a difference between the sacred and the secular, and so should the public school system.