

Faith, belief, and the failure of the academy

Peter Boghossian



Purpose

Empower, Inspire



Agenda

1) Article, 2) Problem, 3) Why, 4) Solutions

Should Academicians Attempt to Change Student Beliefs?

THE CHRONICLE
of Higher Education



Problem

Failure to challenge religious delusions in the classroom



Islam

Especially Islam



Manifestations

Creationism, Morals



Science Education

<http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2010/04/evolution-controversy/>

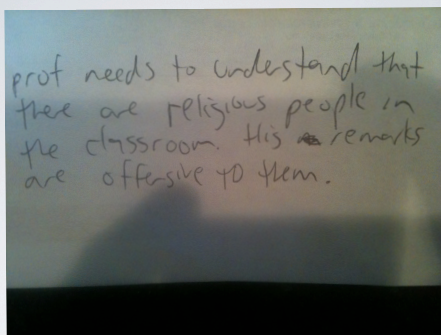


Why?

What prevents us?



Offending Students



End-of-Course Surveys



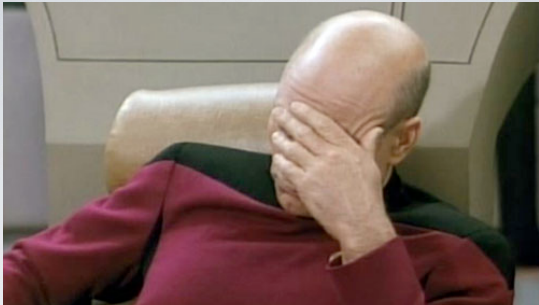
Administrative Complaints



Wasting Class Time



Violence



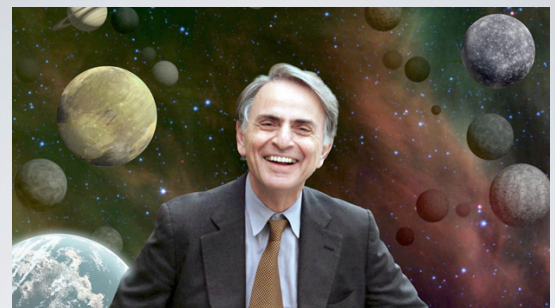
“It won’t do any good”



Solutions



General Orientation
“Willing to reconsider”

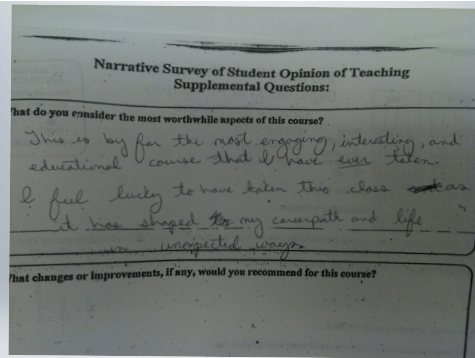


Extraordinary Claims



Offending Students

Respect



End-of-Course Surveys

Positive Comments



Complaints

Have Evidence



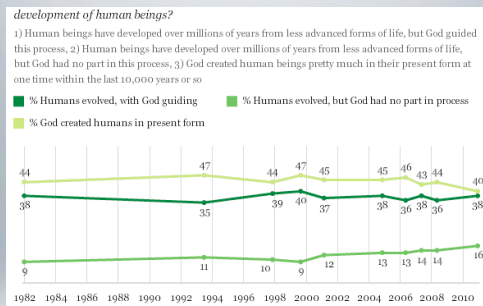
Wasting Class Time

The Most Important Thing You Can Do:
Teach Students *How To Think*



Violence

Attitude



Hope

"It won't do any good"



Friend in the Phil Dept

pgb@pdx.edu



Every Class

Is an opportunity to help students lose faith

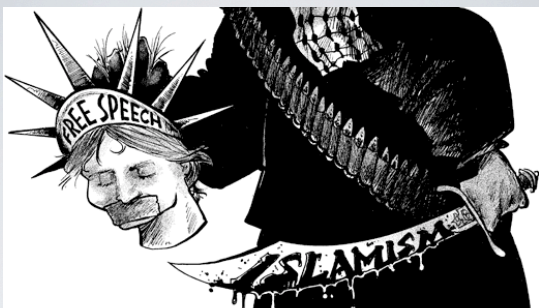


Replace

Reason, Rationality



Agreed



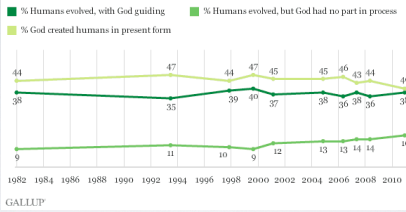
Silence



What is wanted is not the will to believe, but the wish to find out, which is the exact opposite. Bertrand Russell

Which of the following statements comes closest to your views on the origin and development of human beings?

1) Human beings have developed over millions of years from less advanced forms of life, but God guided this process, 2) Human beings have developed over millions of years from less advanced forms of life, but God had no part in this process, 3) God created human beings pretty much in their present form at one time within the last 10,000 years or so



Hope