

The Existence of God

Terms

- A _____ says: "I _____ that God exists"
- An _____ says: "I _____ if God exists."
- An _____ says: "I _____ God does not exist."

Making a Case for God

1. The _____ Argument

- The argument from _____ and _____

The _____ form of the argument:

- a) Whatever begins to exist has a _____
- b) The _____ began to exist
- c) Therefore, the _____ has a _____

2. The _____ Argument

- The argument from _____

The Central Argument of Richard Dawkins' *The God Delusion*¹

Dawkins summarizes "the central argument" of his book as follows:

1. One of the greatest challenges to the human intellect, over the centuries, has been to explain how the complex, improbable appearance of design in the universe arises.
2. The natural temptation is to attribute the appearance of design to actual design itself (e.g. a watch, eye, wing, spider, person).
3. The temptation is a false one, because the designer hypothesis immediately raises the larger problem of who designed the designer...It is obviously no solution to postulate something even more improbable.
4. The most ingenious and powerful explanation is Darwinian evolution by natural selection...We can now safely say that the illusion of design in living creatures is just that – an illusion.
5. We don't yet have an equivalent explanation for physics.
6. We should not give up hope of a better explanation arising in physics, something as powerful as Darwinism is for biology.

→ *Therefore God almost certainly does not exist.*

Evaluation?²

3. The _____ Argument

- Universal sense of _____ and _____

¹ Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2008 paperback edition), 187-189.

² See William Lane Craig, "Dawkins's Delusion," in *Contending with Christianity's Critics: Answering New Atheists and Other Objectors*, ed. Paul Copan and William Lane Craig (Nashville: B & H, 2009), 2-5; and Stephen C. Meyer, *Signature in the Cell: DNA and the Evidence for Intelligent Design* (New York: HarperOne, 2009), 388-394.

