

# ON A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

## VOLUME ONE: SERIES INTRODUCTION

### PART ONE: DISCUSSION GUIDE

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Class / Block \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Using the arguments presented in the DVD, and your own research, answer the following questions and be ready to discuss them in class. Label and staple extra paper if required.

#### PART ONE: ARGUING FOR AN ARGUMENT

1. How long have the theories of evolution and creation been competing with each other?

2. What could Babe Ruth and the Yankees have done during the 1920's and 1930's to prove that they were the best baseball team of the period? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Is the Venn diagram of philosophy, science and religion a fair metaphor? The host argues that these disciplines overlap and are not mutually exclusive domains of knowledge. Explain why you agree or disagree with this argument. \_\_\_\_\_

#### EDUCATION AND MONOPOLY

4. What are the advantages & disadvantages of indoctrination ("*teaching you to think like me*")?

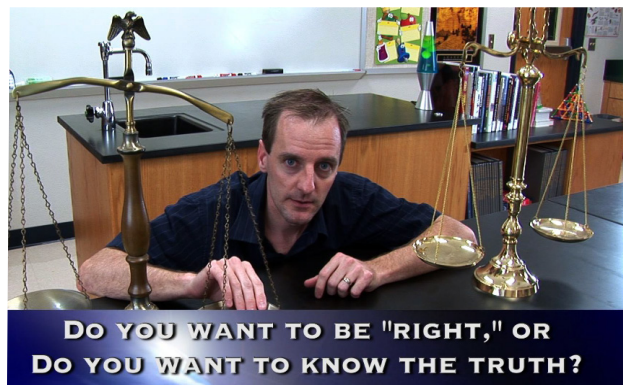
5. What are the advantages & disadvantages of education ("*teaching you to think for yourself*")?

6. What do you think the "monopoly of thought" means? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What are the disadvantages of a "monopoly of thought?" \_\_\_\_\_

8. **"Do you want to be right, or do you want to know the truth?"** What is the difference between these two options? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Which one do you choose and why? \_\_\_\_\_



10. The host, in his argument for a free market of thought and inquiry, makes the following claim: **“On a level playing field the truth will always win.”** Is this true? \_\_\_\_\_  
Can you give an example of where this is **NOT** true? \_\_\_\_\_

## GOALS OF THE SERIES

- \* Goal 1: Develop critical thinking, compare & contrast and analytical skills
  - \* Goal 2: Engagement will help to consume and digest science
  - \* Goal 3: Testing is a key part of science and cannot prove the truth wrong. It only serves to better reveal truth.
  - \* Goal 4: Deeper understanding of other theories and appreciation for people with diverse opinions.
11. Which goal is the strongest and most important for science? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Which goal is the weakest and least important for science? \_\_\_\_\_

## ELEMENTS OF LOGIC & THEORIES

13. Why is logic important for science? \_\_\_\_\_
14. Which barber shop would you have chosen and why? \_\_\_\_\_



15. Can assumptions affect how scientific data is interpreted? \_\_\_\_\_
16. Why do you think the people of Galileo’s day protected the Geocentric Theory and refused to consider the Heliocentric Theory? \_\_\_\_\_
17. What three functions does a good scientific theory perform?
1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
18. What are the benefits of testing one’s beliefs? \_\_\_\_\_
19. Should both Evolution and Creation be examined in the science classroom? \_\_\_\_\_

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

**"A fair result can be obtained only by fully stating and balancing the facts and arguments on both sides of each question..."**  
- Sir Charles Darwin

**"The first to present his case seems right, till another comes forward and questions him."**  
King Solomon, The Bible

20. If not, which one should be explored and why?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
21. What disqualifies the excluded theory?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_