

**Anthropology 12: Exercise 1**  
**Due February 7**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Last week we talked about the scientific method and the meaning of the word “Theory” in relation to evolution. This week we further discuss evolution as a theory and the path undergone by scientists and naturalists to reach the conclusion that all living things are the result of evolution, and in particular, of natural selection, over the next couple of lectures.

Yet, as well accepted as evolution is in the scientific community, only about 40% of the American public believes in evolution. This is in fact, much lower than the percentage that believe in evolution in many other countries.

In addition to your regular reading I would like you to read Stephen J. Gould’s essay, “Evolution as fact and theory” available at: [http://www.stephenjaygould.org/library/gould\\_fact-and-theory.html](http://www.stephenjaygould.org/library/gould_fact-and-theory.html). Use your reading of this, your textbook, anything else you find relevant, and your personal experience to inform the assignment below.

On a more comedic bent, you can also look at:

<http://www.bringyou.to/apologetics/p67.htm>

For this first essay, I want to you explore the debate a little – is evolution *just* a theory or is it fact? What do you think of Gould’s perspective? What did *you* think coming into the class and why? Should “Intelligent Design” be taught in schools alongside evolutionary theory? How would you handle the science vs. creationism issue?

Your essay should be about 3 pages, typed, double-spaced. The assignment is worth 15 points and will be graded 10 pts content and 5 on writing. For content, I will be looking for you to thoroughly address the question and bring facts in from your reading to support your argument. For writing, I will be looking at complete essay structure and paragraph structure as well as sentence structure, spelling and proofreading.