

*Overstatements and Imperfect Machines, How is the Intelligent Design Movement Affecting Our Society – Review*

Thesis- This paper will seek to discuss, among other things, the reasons why ID supporters do not utilize more realistic representations that show the nature of flagella accurately, and not as ‘perfect’ machines. Could it be that ID advocates are more interested in gaining support for their belief than focusing on the truth? How plausible is it that such arguments will affect and persuade the general public?

- Summary
  - John McDonald refuted the irreducibly complex system, so Behe and other supporters of intelligent design turned to the bacterial flagellum example. Is this flipping of ideas proof that ID advocates are more interested in gaining support than focusing on the truth?
  - Behe defines an irreducibly complex system and uses the mousetrap as an example; however, McDonald disproves this.
  - The bacterial flagellum provides an example of an irreducibly complex organelle. There are examples of flagella that are perfectly symmetrical, which supports the machine-like appearance, but the majority of flagella is non-uniform and varies from cell to cell.
  - ID advocates argue that these machine-looking images of flagella must be intelligently designed. They also could take advantage of the misinterpretation of their language choice of “machine” to appeal to more casual readers.
  - William Paley’s watch in the desert argument is parallel to saying the flagellum must be designed too.
  - The images ID activists use to show the flagellum are inaccurate in order to support their argument.
  - People who are uninformed on topics tend to agree with what they hear.
  - Most intelligent designers refuse to address the name of the designer in order to be more compatible with different religious views. ID advocates provide little to no actual evidence besides scientific vocabulary and concepts.
  - ID advocates are more interested in gaining support due to forged examples of perfect models such as flagella and lack of actual evidence.
- General Comments
  - You have a good flow of arguments and a solid thesis, which directs through the entire paper. The length of your paragraphs varies throughout the essay, and the inconsistencies point out which arguments have less supporting evidence. Overall, what you have is leading you in the right direction, and a few adjustments will strengthen your arguments further.
- Specific Comments
  - P1
    - The sentence that starts with “there are, however...” can probably be condensed because it seems redundant to say the “portrayal of” and then describe the actual portrayal is to resemble ideal miniature machines.

- I'm not sure how strong questions are in a first paragraph. You present your reader with a more solid and stronger argument with confident statements rather than questions despite them leading into your topic. Choose your side and rephrase the questions to show what you are proving.
    - Grammar-
      - Isolate the however between two commas as with all interrupters.
      - When an independent clause is followed by a dependent clause, they aren't separated with a comma. (...ID arguments and how the...)
      - This starts appearing in this paragraph but is also apparent throughout: when using quotation marks, always use the double (“ ”) rather than single, unless you quote something within a quote.
  - P2
    - This paragraph is very short: only three sentences. Maybe you can find another place for it in another paragraph since it is necessary as background for your readers. Maybe explain more why the evidence Professor McDonald presented defeats the credibility of not just the mousetrap model, but also irreducible complexity as a whole.
    - Grammar
      - There doesn't need to be a comma after “suggested how, starting with...” unless you are quoting it from your source.
  - P3
    - The topic sentence is a good transition from the paragraph before.
    - This paragraph becomes confusing after “However, ID activists...” because the however doesn't seem to be refuting anything that was previously stated. This sentence can be reworked to just “ID activists use images of flagella portrayed with perfect symmetry and tightly fitting components as evidence for their arguments.”
    - From what I understand, I think you need to make it clear sooner that flagella are imperfect before you make the statement above. This way, the reader sees how ID advocates are exploiting the images they use as evidence.
    - Grammar
      - The comma after “ID supporters, of an...” is unnecessary.
  - P4
    - This paragraph has a solid direction and argument. If you remove the use of “may,” you can make your argument stronger.
  - P5
    - Removing “It is hard to avoid” and rewording this sentence makes it clearer to the reader what your point is. This paragraph is only two sentences, so you can integrate it into the paragraph above

because it addresses language topics and the machine-like qualities.

- P6
  - This paragraph begins to address the same topics shown in paragraph 3. Again, the “however” doesn’t work to begin the topic.
  - What do you mean by “this allows portrayal...” rethink what you’re trying to say, because it isn’t clear.
  - The rest of the paragraph is good with a good next point.
  - In the last sentence machined → machines
- P7
  - Is it true that these flaws are evident with only a quick (cursory) examination? Your points lead me to believe it takes some careful examination to find both pictures of perfect and imperfect flagella. This then makes more sense to say that not all people will be able to recognize them.
  - There should be a citation somewhere for the information in this paragraph.
  - You seem to be going somewhere with this point, but it doesn’t follow through. The parallel between people believing the Sun revolves around the Earth somewhat lines up, but your wording with the “suggestibility” isn’t the issue, more their lack of knowledge.
  - Grammar
    - “one... adult... *think*”
- P8
  - Split up the sentence “ID campaigners...” after “possible” so it isn’t a run-on sentence.
  - Watch out for two successive sentences that use the same words: “ID has also.../ Also, they...”
  - This paragraph also has some good points, and it’s useful that even though there are two separate points about religion and evidence, they are in the same paragraph rather than two shorter paragraphs.
- P9
  - Great conclusion. This is a well-organized and supported thesis.