

## **In your research I was confused by the survey's definition of intelligent design. How are you defining intelligent design?**

This video was recorded at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History on April 30, 2017

- Jamie Jensen: 00:28 The question you're referring to is actually a Gallup poll that was not our poll, and it doesn't differentiate between that statement that some involvement of God could absolutely, totally cover intelligent design. What I'm saying is when students come into my classroom and they say, "Yeah, I'm an intelligent designist," and I ask them to explain intelligent design, they generally explain evolution, but that God was directing the whole process, which is a little bit different than intelligent design. If you read about intelligent design, and I'm not an expert in intelligent design, but intelligent design has this idea of irreducible complexity. That there's no way that certain things like the human heart could have evolved, that it had to have been created right there. That's different, so my students will say, "No, no, no, no. The heart could have evolved from less complex features, but it was guided by God. Therefore, it's intelligent design." That's not, right? It's a subtle difference, but it's a very important difference. I think most of my students say that it's theistic evolution.
- Lee Meadows: 01:32 I can add something to that too. Unless some of the committee corrects me, I believe the framers of intelligent design have been very careful to say they're not talking about God. They're talking about a creator, but they don't talk about God at all. When Jamie's talking about her students and they're thinking about how their God was at work, intelligent design would say, "Nope, Nope. We're not talking about specific God. We're talking about specific actions." They're very careful in intelligent design, to stay away from that, if that makes sense. I was doing the same thing until recently when I saw that. I believe I'm right, there is a difference from the framers of intelligent design and what they're doing with that, and then with somebody who's coming at it from a theistic evolution or an evolutionary creationism idea.
- Briana Pobiner: 02:23 I was going to say the same thing and I'll add in the main reason for that is because after there were court decisions that said you cannot teach about religion and teach about God in a science classroom, the intelligent design movement said, "But we're not talking about that. We're going to have this box around here." That is why that distinction, specifically, was made.

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