

MS in General Biology

Example of highly developed signature assignment answers on distinguish between and relationship between science and faith

Science is based on the accumulation and vetted acceptance of data. The scientific method is a logical way of thinking and problem solving by resolving one variable at a time until hypotheses have enough empirical evidence to give way to theories. Faith is defined by the King James Version of the Bible as “the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” (Heb 11:1) At the beginning of the course we talked about the types of facts that govern science. One could argue that not all things in science are seen, however, we believe because we trust what reputable scientists have told us. Although philosophical/conceptual facts rely on belief as they lack empirical evidence, they are still within the realm of science because they are reasonable assumptions based on scientific data. Faith requires conceptual belief as well, but in supernatural forces outside the empirical, measurable world of science. Being raised in church and loving science I faced the evolution vs faith question in high school. A very wise youth leader helped me see it is entirely possible that God built into organisms the raw material for evolution. He pointed out that the order of appearance of things in Genesis was roughly the same as what paleontologists and geologists would agree to, but with a very different scale of time. He helped me shrug off the literal meaning of the words I had memorized in Sunday School and consider how evolution may have been the plan all along, not something created by man to elevate himself and dethrone God. Once I stopped seeing faith and science as adversarial life got a lot easier. I am still unsure about the ongoing influence of God on evolution or any process in our universe, but I am equally willing to admit that there are a lot of things we don't know about science either.