

**Views Of Texas Residents On
Teaching Evolution**

Submitted to:
Rob Crowther
Discovery Institute

Submitted by:
Zogby International
John Zogby, President and CEO
John Bruce, Vice President and Systems Administrator
Rebecca Wittman, Vice President and Managing Editor

Joseph Zogby, Writer

August 28, 2003

Table Of Contents

Subject	Page
I. Methodology and Sample Characteristics	2
II. Narrative Analysis	4
<hr/>	
Tables	
1. Applying Standards To Textbooks	5

I. Methodology and Sample Characteristics

Methodology

Zogby International conducted interviews of 601 adults chosen at random in Texas. All calls were made from Zogby International headquarters in Utica, N.Y., from Monday, August 25 to Wednesday, August 27, 2003. The margin of error is +/- 4.1%. Slight weights were added to region, age, race, and gender to more accurately reflect the population. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

Sample Characteristics	Frequency	Valid Percent*
Sample size	601	100
Dallas	96	16
Houston	132	22
West	66	11
Central	138	23
South	36	6
East	132	22
18-29	147	25
30-49	246	42
50-64	115	19
65+	85	14
18-24	85	14
25-34	128	22
35-54	224	38
55-69	107	18
70+	49	8
Did not answer age	8	--
White	326	55
Hispanic	187	31
African American	70	12
Asian/Pacific	6	1
Other/mixed	6	1
Did not answer race	7	--
Male	290	48
Female	311	52

* Numbers have been rounded to the nearest percent and might not total 100.

II. Narrative Analysis

1. Are you the parent or guardian of a child currently attending public school in Texas?

Yes	34%
No	66

One-third of the sample are parents or guardians of children currently attending public schools in Texas. Higher percentages of parents/guardians are found among 30-49 year-olds (57%), African Americans (51%), residents of the Central Region (42%), and women (38%).

2. The state board of education is currently deciding which biology textbooks should be approved for use in public schools in Texas. Which of the following two statements comes closer to your own opinion? **A:** The state board of education should approve biology textbooks that teach only Darwin's theory of evolution and the scientific evidence that supports it. **B:** The state board of education should approve biology textbooks that teach Darwin's theory of evolution, but also the scientific evidence against it.

Statement A	16%
Statement B	75
Not sure	9

By nearly a five-to-one margin, people are more likely to agree with Statement B (75%) than Statement A (16%). Approximately one in ten are not sure (9%).

Two-thirds or more of people within almost every sub-group agree with *Statement B* – that the state board of education should approve biology textbooks that teach Darwin's theory of evolution, but also the scientific evidence against it. Among the most likely are 83% of 18-29 year-olds and residents of the East Region.

Those who are more likely to agree with *Statement A* – that the state board of education should approve biology textbooks that teach only Darwin's theory of evolution and the scientific evidence that supports it – include just over one-fifth of seniors 65 and older and residents of the West Region.

3 – 4. I will read you two statements. Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each one.

Table 1. Applying Standards to Textbooks

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
3. Texas law requires that textbooks be (quote) “free from factual errors.” Should the state board of education apply this standard to how biology textbooks present Darwin’s theory of evolution?	71	20	9
4. Texas law requires students to analyze, review, and critique scientific explanations, including hypotheses and theories, as to their strengths and weaknesses using scientific evidence and information. Should the state board of education apply this standard to how evolution is presented in textbooks?	82	14	5

Large majorities agree that the state board of education should apply both of these standards to textbooks. One-fifth to one in seven disagrees with each.

Three-fifths or more of people in most sub-groups *agree* that **biology textbooks presenting Darwin’s theory of evolution be free from factual errors**. The most likely to agree include residents of the South (88%) and West (79%), parents/guardians of children in public schools (79%), Hispanics (81%), and approximately three-fourths of 18-49 year-olds.

Even higher percentages – three-fourths or more of people in most sub-groups – *agree* that **the state board of education should apply Texas law to how evolution is presented in textbooks**. Among the most likely to agree are close to nine in ten Dallas residents (90%) and residents of the South Region (87%), 18-29 year-olds (89%) and 30-49 year-olds (86%), and Hispanics (87%).

5. Which of the following two statements comes closer to your own opinion? **A:** Biology teachers should teach only Darwin's theory of evolution and the scientific evidence that supports it. **B:** Biology teachers should teach Darwin's theory of evolution, but also the scientific evidence against it.

Statement A	18%
Statement B	76
Not sure	6

Mirroring closely the results from Question 2, respondents are more likely to agree with Statement B (Biology teachers should teach Darwin's theory of evolution, but also the scientific evidence against it) than with Statement A (Biology teachers should teach only Darwin's theory of evolution and the scientific evidence that supports it).

Seventy percent or more of people in almost every sub-group agree with *Statement B*. Those more likely to agree include 18-29 year-olds (80%) and residents of the South (87%) and East (85%) regions.

Among the most likely to agree with *Statement A* are Dallas residents (26%), seniors 65 and older (23%), African Americans (22%), and more parents/guardians of children in public schools (22%) than adults who are not parents/guardians of children in public schools (16%).

6. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement: “When Darwin's theory of evolution is taught in school, students should also be able to learn about scientific evidence that points to an intelligent design of life.”

Strongly agree	64%		
Somewhat agree	20	Agree	84%
Somewhat disagree	5		
Strongly disagree	7	Disagree	12
Not sure	4		

A vast majority of adults (84%) agrees that in addition to teaching Darwin’s theory of evolution, students should also be able to learn about scientific evidence that points to an intelligent design of life. This includes nearly two in three (64%) who strongly agree. Approximately one in eight (12%) strongly or somewhat disagrees.

A majority in every sub-group strongly agrees. The most likely to *agree* include 18-29 year-olds (89%) and Hispanics (87%).