Arguments for Atheism. Research Paper #2 You will research the topic below and write an essay of 600-900 words according to the criteria described below. You should use a minimum of two sources in your research and must cite all sources used in a bibliography (MLA formatting is not necessary). For this paper you will do one of two things: Research and write about an argument for theism or an argument for atheism. It must be an argument we have not covered in class. Several suggested arguments are listed below, but you may write about any argument not listed if you wish. Be sure to check with the instructor if you choose an argument not listed below. Your paper should cover the following: • Explain the basic argument and make clear how it leads to the conclusion that God does/does not exist. • Be sure to define important terms and explain any key concepts used in the argument. • Discuss some objections to the argument along with potential rebuttals to those objections on behalf of the argument [you may find some discussion of these in your research, but you may also make your own objections or rebuttals if you wish]. When finished, you should have a complete, self-contained essay that clearly explains the argument you’ve chosen, and could be understood by a general audience. As is recommended with your exams, write as though your reader is a fellow student who is not in our class. Be sure to define terms as necessary. Your paper should be free of spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors, and should be well organized. If you encounter any problems in researching the paper, please contact the instructor for assistance. Suggested topics Most of the arguments listed below will have more than one version that you may find when researching. Much like The Cosmological Argument, which we covered in class, the general way of arguing can take different forms, such as the First Cause Argument (Aquinas), the Kalam Cosmological Argument (Craig), and the Argument from Contingency (Taylor). Or in some cases, different philosophers will offer different versions of roughly the same argument. If you find different versions of an argument, just choose one to write about. Let the instructor know if you have any questions about this. Also, for some arguments listed below, I’ve included the name(s) of philosophers most often associated with the argument. You are not required to present that philosopher’s version of the argument, though. The names are just included to aid in your research. Arguments for God’s existence • The Ontological Argument (St. Anselm) • The Moral Argument (William Lane Craig, Immanuel Kant) • The Argument from Religious Experience • The Argument from Consciousness • The Argument from Miracles • The Argument from Beauty (aka, the Aesthetic Argument) Arguments against God’s existence • The Evidential Problem of Evil (William Rowe) • The Teleological Problem of Evil • Argument from Divine Hiddenness (J. L. Schellenberg) • Argument from Religious Diversity • Argument from Scale • Argument from Meager Moral Fruits (Paul Draper)