Does God Exist?
The question, “Does God exist?” is one that has been asked in so many ways over so many years by so many people. This enormous question cuts across countries, languages, and every faith tradition that’s been brought to life over the centuries. I think it is one of the most interesting philosophical questions because there are numerous arguments on both sides. I also grew up in a Catholic grade school and high school. My background is very religious but I also find the philosophical reasoning behind the question “does God exist?” to be plausible and very interesting. Unlike my parents, I have never known what I believe in until recently. I’ve never had the views of a Catholic even though I grew up in a very Catholic environment. I am going to analyze the possibility of God’s existence and examine whether or not there is a logical reasoning behind my conclusion. I am not trying in this paper to define the undefinable, to describe the indescribable. I am saying that the question of the existence of God is a matter of definition. Nothing exists without an observer. Without observers there is some question as to whether or not the universe would even exist. If we define God as the cumulative life force that has resulted in the development of the universe, the almost unbelievable circumstances that have allowed human life and all other life on this planet to exist, to allow life to exist elsewhere in this universe, then yes I do believe there is a God. Before I get any deeper into my opinion on the philosophy behind the question, I would like to answer it more accurately and honestly from my life’s perspective today.

I believe that there is an inherent force in the universe, much like other inherent forces. This one is called awareness. I believe that awareness exists in the universe as an immutable force. That force is God. You see, there has never been a scientific explanation for
awareness. Most other things can be explained in scientific terms. Awareness, or attentiveness, cannot. Awareness and attentiveness cannot be explained because they cannot be measured nor taught. You can have awareness without thoughts, feelings or mind but you can't have thoughts, feelings or mind without awareness. Some believe awareness and attentiveness come from the soul. Some believe awareness, or consciousness, is a force of the Universe. You cannot teach a thing to be aware. That is why modern day computers may be able to "think" and make logical deductions, but they will never be able to sense, or be aware. There are channels within the brain where awareness settles. It is definable energy in our brains that cannot be destroyed, - a force that has been present from the beginning of time. A force, without which nothing exists—nothing. Because when we take away that force we are left with a lifeless, useless, complexion of elements we live in (body). And that force, awareness, cannot be destroyed because energy cannot be destroyed. So as we exist that force enters our body, as we build space and become open to it. It occupies certain channels in our brains. When we die, that energy leaves our brains and moves back to the universe until it finds somewhere else to settle. That immutable force, that un-destroyable energy, is god. And it exists within all of us, and we can access it. Without that force nothing exists. So yes God is real, and he present in everyone of us.

I think that “God” has a different meaning to everyone in a way words cannot describe. My understanding of God is very unique. I have developed a full self-understanding of God throughout my whole life. No one else has taught me or influenced my view on God’s existence except for myself. No human can physically know that they are thinking of “God” the exact way
another person is thinking of “it.” Where does our meaning come from and how does it develop? A big reason for the structure behind the meaning is due to the way you were raised. We were all born with what Locke refers to as a “blank slate.” Your slate remains blank until you see the world for the first time. When you are born, your brain immediately begins to observe and fill that slate. This means that each individual was born with an empty mind that will be filled with your life experiences which are a unique source of mental content only you can process. Over time, we become more adaptable based on what we have observed from the past. No baby just comes out talking. Their first word will depend on the people around the child. When someone is born and raised in a family of atheist’s, then that person will probably grow up to be an atheist. Arguing about the existence of God from the perspective of an atheist becomes even more problematic. If one envisions God has some mammoth creature with the big white beard who is all knowing all loving and all giving, the perspective of an atheist is somewhat understandable. If one envisions God has someone who takes particular favor on those who pray every Sunday in a particular fashion and ask for favors, the atheist perspective does not seem so far-fetched.

However, if one envisions God as the cumulative awareness, the cumulative life force, of all living creatures the atheist perspective becomes much more difficult. Just as it is impossible to describe awareness and to describe God it is therefore equally impossible to argue that god does not exist. It truly becomes a matter of definition. One cannot argue awareness. Awareness is a fact. Awareness is energy and energy cannot be destroyed. And if one believes that the cumulative mass of all that awareness of all living creatures however
different that awareness may be is God then there can be a little argument When you are born and raised in a Catholic family, chances are that you will be Catholic and believe what Catholics believe. But just because you were raised in a family of Catholics, that truly believe in the existence of a perfect God, does not mean that one exists.

There is a cosmological argument for the existence of God that attempts to prove God’s existence by observing the world around us. Thomas Aquinas said that there is no case known in which a thing is found to be the efficient cause of itself. Now when we think about the world, facts come up such as how the planets move in their orbits with absolute mathematical precision and how each plant is in nearly perfect harmony with its environment. But what is the original cause for these facts? These amazing feats of nature must have an original cause, right? Well that is where people think it is necessary to admit a first efficient cause to which everyone gives the name of God. The universe is such an intricate system of balanced mechanisms that it can be explained only in terms of the purposes and intentions of an intelligent creator we call “God.” But what if there is not a “God” out there and we just use it as an excuse to how the world runs. Many people are not sure of what the first cause was, so therefore the first cause is God.

We must further understand that what I see as reality is different from what every other person in this world sees as reality. Our observations and interpretations cannot help but vary given that we all have different experiences. Is the “apparent universe” of a fish any less real or valid than my “apparent universe”? Therefore, our observations and interpretations cannot be the truth. Some contend that the only truth is that “light”, that awareness that exists in each and every one of us. “I am the way, the truth, the light” seems to ring very true.
I think the role of God’s existence is merely an illusion that people give themselves as a cause for the world around us. The human mind is prone to knowing the structure behind the harmonized cycle in Earth which moves with absolute mathematical precision to sustain a livable environment. But is the proposition “does God exist” pragmatically meaningful? When I am asked “does God exist?” I assume that my answer will not play a significant role in a changing in my life or anyone else’s for that matter. For some people however, depending on the degree of belief, this question can play a detrimental role in one’s life. Certain individuals may believe in the overall existence of “God,” but may not be affected what so ever by the role it plays. But for these types of people, can it be true that their so called belief is really meaningless? If someone believes in something, that means that they value the meaning behind it therefore affecting their life.

True devotional belief in something makes it true that the thing in which one believes in will affect their life. But looking at Kierkegaard’s account of Abraham’s “madness”, he states that granting the theological premise changes nothing. But what if it was God speaking to Abraham that day. Does it necessarily change anything at all? Weather God is real or not, Abraham’s son lost his life that day. He did not die naturally but was sacrificed. Why didn’t God choose a goat or chicken to sacrifice? In this story, he is going against a commandment and all Catholics choose to ignore it. It could be that God is just a concept to help people act accordingly and create a nice environment. The concept of God gives people a guide on how to live life accordingly with the reward of being granted ultimate happiness (Heaven). We have the choice to be how we want and act how we want not without punishment. Maybe God is just a guide that
people use to live a moral life and try to reach true happiness by putting others first. Research has been done that proves that joy comes very easily when you help benefit others. The book makes a good point when saying that Abraham was a law abiding citizen who lived a moral life, and then was told to kill (sacrifice) his son by an “angel.” How do we know that Abraham was not a crazy mad man who hallucinated one day and thought “angels” were speaking to him? Although Abraham is not a compelling piece of evidence in God’s existence, this story does not follow the moral standards behind the values that “God” lives by. However, I am not saying that there is no truth in God.

There are parts of this world such the human body that is hard to explain. I mean sure doctors and scientists can explain the process in which our body works. But all of our organs work together simultaneously to keep us alive and functioning without having to interfere with the process whatsoever. There has to be an “intelligent creator” of some sort that engineered the cycle behind such mysterious formalities of nature. Who was it that put the planets into nearly perfect harmony within its environment? Along with the trees, animals, oceans, and other aspects of nature that make Earth a suitable environment for the human race.

Maybe the question is not “who?” but what. What is the awareness that causes the world to go round? The definition of God in The Merriam-Webster dictionary is “a spirit or being that has great power, strength, knowledge, etc., and that can affect nature and the lives of people” (Merriam-Webster, 2). Although I do not completely disagree with this definition, I do believe it is in-accurate. There is no spirit or being that should control someone’s life. “God” is awareness from within in. Buddhists believe that true awareness can only be experienced when the mind is
truly still, and even then it cannot be described, it can only be experienced (Source: My Father) (He’s Buddhist). By the same token that awareness cannot be described, God cannot be described. Our language and our cognitive abilities do not allow us to come anywhere close to describing the indescribable. God is by definition indescribable, and I think this is much of what leads to there being so many opinions and so much discussion of the question “What is God?” Everyone has an opinion, and most are more than willing to express that opinion. But when some of the greatest minds in the world over the past thousands of years, people who spend their lives doing little but experiencing God to the best of their ability, conclude that God cannot be described, who is the casual observer to posit otherwise.

This casual observer thinks it is due to the theory of evolution. Is it possible that we could have evolved from bacteria? Fossil records indicate that mounds of bacteria once covered young Earth. Some began making their own food using carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and energy they harvested from the sun. This process, or photosynthesis, produced enough oxygen to alter Earth's atmosphere, causing new oxygen-breathing life-forms to appear. This is where we began. And it was that immutable life force I referenced earlier that allowed this all to happen. It was the force behind the “big bang” and it is the force behind evolution. This life force exists in all living creatures. And from this state “we” continued to grow and use the awareness from the Universe to adapt and grow. We are each born with a “God” inside us that influences the way we act. This definable energy is real and it is everywhere. God is all around us and hears everything you say and do. Not as a person but as an awareness. This theory would disprove the argument of St. Thomas who states “a first cause exists outside the observable world: the first cause is
God” (Does the Center Hold, 166). There is no God that created us all in 7 days. God is simply the inherent force that causes and allows us to be aware. Because without awareness, without that force, nothing could exist. Nothing!