

An argument that rejects free will in favour of causal determinism

1. Humans are made only of matter (i.e. the chemicals that make up our bodies and brains)
2. Matter behaves in a way that is determined by causal laws (this is what scientists tell us)
3. The matter that makes up our bodies behaves in a way that is determined by causal laws.

Conclusion 1: The behaviour of human bodies is therefore determined by causal laws

4. If the behaviour of anything is determined by causal laws, then it does not have free will. It cannot choose to behave in a different way.

Main Conclusion: Humans do not have free will

Think of how this argument may be challenged...

Perhaps premise 1 is not true. Are we made up of more than matter?

Perhaps premise 2 is not true. Does all matter behave according to strict causal laws?

Are there any other problems?