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## Introduction to the Intellectual Standard

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# Introduction to The Intellectual Standard

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# Introduction to *The Intellectual Standard*

*Jaret Kanarek, Editor-in-chief*

It is with great pleasure that I introduce *The Intellectual Standard* to Illinois Wesleyan University. *The Intellectual Standard* is an interdisciplinary, student-run academic journal. With philosophy as its fundamental base, it covers a myriad of topics, including the social sciences, the natural sciences, current events, culture, and art. Its goal is to bring intellectual thought into the mainstream environment of Illinois Wesleyan University, and thereby set an intellectual standard for students, professors, and publications alike.

I will finish the latter portion of my introduction with a personal statement. I consider myself an intellectual, not by the bromidic modern interpretation but, by the actual definition of the term. I make this distinction because modern “intellectuals” cannot be considered respectable in any regard. They despise reason, decry truth, and seek to ultimately invalidate man’s mind.

To those that do not find this claim to be quite evident, I shall point you to the slogans of environmentalists, who defiantly proclaim that your life is no more valuable than a slug or the dirt it crawls in; or to the multiplicity of philosophers who have spent their whole careers attempting to prove that nothing is knowable, truth is relative, and that your life has no meaning; or to the cultural relativists who claim that a society in which women have endless career opportunities is equally as valid as one in which women face the daily alternative between starvation and rape; or consider how many times you or others have muttered the words, “I am only human,” as an excuse for incompetency. The attitude presented here is pervasive in our society, and the environment at Illinois Wesleyan University is no exception.

When I came to Illinois Wesleyan University I soon found that there was no outlet for me to express my views or present my arguments in a manner in which they could be heard. The papers I wrote were read only by my professors; the newspaper articles I wrote were highly watered-down and came with unmanageable word limits; and should I wish to publish something at the level of an academic journal, it must be within the

confines of a particular department's publication where there is no interdisciplinary overlap. I reached the unshakeable conclusion that it would be unacceptable for any other student to experience what I have. The rational minded need an outlet; *The Intellectual Standard* is that outlet.

To all those who played a part in the creation of *The Intellectual Standard*, I thank you with unwavering conviction. You know, as well as I, that its creation is a profound victory. I will end my introduction with a quote from an influential philosopher whose ideas have guided me in the creation of this journal: "the world you desired can be won, it exists, it is real, it is possible, it's yours." *And so it is.*