What is Atheism, Secularism, Humanism?

Burden of Proof
A person making a truth-claim has the burden to support that claim; a person questioning the claim has no burden and may reject the claim if it is not sufficiently supported with evidence and/or logic. In science and law, the assumption is that the claim is false until proven true (null hypothesis or presumption of innocence). If the questioner can provide argument against the claim, that is fine (“positive defense”), but if there are no good grounds for the claim, that alone is sufficient to reject the claim.

Understanding the Arguments

Arguments for god(s)
1. Cosmological (nature of the universe) argument: (a) the universe requires a first cause, (b) the universe requires a “sustaining” cause or something to “stand on” and that first or sustaining cause is a god
2. Ontological (being) argument: a god must necessarily exist because (a) being is a necessary trait or perfection of a god (Anselm) and/or (b) even atheists have an idea of gods and therefore gods exist
3. Teleological (purpose/order) argument: the universe seems to have an order or design—even a purpose—therefore there must be an orderer or designer, and that is god(s)
4. Argument from scripture/authority: (a) written sources say that god(s) exist and/or (b) human authorities like priests and prophets say that god(s) exist, therefore god(s) exist
5. Argument from miracles: miracles (unexplainable? unlikely? positive? supernatural?) exist, therefore a god must exist
6. Argument from personal experience/mysticism: an individual has an experience of a god, therefore that god must exist
7. Argument from morality: (a) humans have a moral sense and/or (b) there must be a superhuman source and guarantor of morality, therefore god(s) exist
8. Argument from benefit: the world and/or individuals are better with a god, therefore a god must exist. For instance, “Pascal’s wager” holds that it is preferable to believe that a god exists because there is nothing to lose and everything to gain from the belief, whereas rejecting the existence of a god has nothing to gain and everything to lose

Arguments against god(s)
1. Burden of proof: if the above arguments for god(s) fail, then it is reasonable if not necessary to reject god-belief (“negative defense”)
2. Incoherence or contradiction of religious language: (a) the claim or the words in the claim have ambiguous meaning or no meaning at all (for instance, what does it mean to say that a god is three persons?), (b) the claim uses contradictory assertions (e.g. a god is an “incorporeal being”), and/or (c) words for and about god(s) are specific to the language of one religion and have no meaning for—or are contradicted by—other religions
3. The problem of evil (theodicy): if a god is all-good and all-powerful, then evil should not exist in the world. Evil does exist in the world, therefore an all-good, all-powerful god does not exist
4. Argument from bible contradictions: there are inconsistencies and contradictions in scripture, so scripture is not a trustworthy basis for god-belief
5. Sociological argument/argument from other religions: there are many different and mutually-exclusive god-claims in the world (not to mention other-than-god claims). They cannot all be true at the same time. In the best case, each claim has a diminishingly small chance of being true (e.g. if there are 1,000 god-claims, each has a 0.1% chance of being true); in the worst case, all of the claims could be untrue—social concepts and products of human imagination, but not reality