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Ego Depletion, Indoctrination, and Moral Responsibility

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ABSTRACT In this paper the researcher argues that ego depletion renders students susceptible to indoctrination. When students are conditioned to a certain way of education that depletes their egos, they become susceptible to indoctrination. That is, they lack the resources needed to resist persuasion and to critical thinking. The researcher proceeds by defining "ego depletion" and its relationship to self-control. Then, the researcher presents empirical evidence that shows the link between ego depletion and the susceptibility to indoctrination. Finally, the researcher discusses how our understanding of ego depletion changes the way we conceptualize indoctrination. This paper provides an argument for a situational understanding of indoctrination. Then, the researcher considers the consequences of such understanding on indoctrination and moral responsibility.