

MINI RESEARCH PROJECT:

NATURE vs. NURTURE and IDENTICAL TWINS REARED SEPARATELY

Most social scientists agree that the nature vs. nurture debate is the most important theoretical argument when examining the origin and function of human behavior. In definition, *nature* refers to our genetic, biological make-up as humans. *Nurture*, in contrast, refers to our social environment and how human behavior is shaped by the various social institutions of Western culture. Ultimately, controversy arises when determining whether issues such as intelligence, criminality, sexuality, gender, or addiction are simply bi-products of our nature and/or strictly learned, social behaviors. The central focus for this research paper then, is to not only investigate both sides of the nature and nurture debate (using secondary sources to support your claims), but to analyze which is more influential: nature or nurture. Furthermore, as we are reading Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors*, you should be thinking about how Shakespeare portrays personality differences and similarities in the two sets of twins. You will find published articles about actual sets of identical twins separated at birth and extend the concept of nature vs. nurture into an argument about how this affects identical twins reared separately.

ASSIGNMENT:

Students are to write a five paragraph (roughly 800 – 1000 word), typed, double spaced research essay in Times New Roman, font size 12 analyzing the research available on the impact of nature and nurture on identical twins reared separately.

ESSAY:

Each essay should include:

- An introductory paragraph that outlines your topic in an engaging way and finishes with your thesis statement. Your thesis statement will answer the research question: *What role do nature and nurture play in personality and character development, and how is this supported by identical twins who have been reared separately?*
- Three body paragraphs that provide the most convincing evidence from the most reliable and reputable research. The body will contain the three most compelling arguments supporting your thesis while acknowledging counter arguments, i.e., if you are arguing that nurture is more influential, you must acknowledge the nature side of the debate. Each body paragraph should contain at least one to two academic sources to support your argument.
- A conclusion paragraph that summarizes the primary arguments presented in your research.
- All essays also require a properly MLA formatted title page, parenthetical citations, a works cited list of a minimum of 4 sources in MLA style.