



Question: Summarize the points made in the lecture explaining how they cast doubt on the reading

Twin Studies

Most researchers today agree that both nature and nurture play some part in the development of personality and in physical and mental well-being, although there is still a great deal of heated debate about how much is contributed by each. In the attempt to unravel the relative significance of the contributions of nature and nurture to human behavior and personality, researchers often conduct studies of the characteristics of identical (monozygotic) and fraternal (dizygotic) twins.

It has been found that identical twins, who have an identical genetic makeup, often display very similar behavior and other character traits. This is true even for those identical twins who have been separated at birth and brought up in different family environments. In the classic twin study, researchers compare various characteristics of identical twins with fraternal twins. The latter group share 50 percent of their genetic makeup, just like non-twin siblings. If the identical twins display more similarities with regard to a particular characteristic than members of the fraternal or dizygotic group, then it is concluded that heredity plays a part in that behavior or feature of personality. The magnitude of the varying contributions of genetic factors and environmental factors can then be assessed.

Advocates of twin studies argue that this research tool can be used to calculate the heritability of a huge range of medical conditions and psychological disorders, and also the heritability of traits like musical or mathematical understanding or other intellectual abilities.

