

# Open Forum 3

## Web Site Worksheet

### Chapter 8

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 1. Preparing to Listen

**You are going to listen to a class debate about personality development. Before you listen, think about the following question.**

Do you think your personality is more influenced by your genes or by your experiences, family and environment?



#### 2. Listening for Main Ideas

**Read questions 1 and 2. Listen to the debate. Then choose the correct answer for each question.**

- Which of the following statements is the best summary of the “nature” side of the debate?
  - Our personality is influenced by both genes and environment.
  - Our personality is defined and limited by our DNA.
  - Personality changes and develops over our lifetime.
- Which of the following statements is the best summary of the “nurture” side of the debate?
  - Genes have absolutely no influence over our personality.
  - It is impossible to predict how an individual’s personality will develop.
  - Experiences and environment help the personality to develop over time.



#### 3. Listening for More Detail

**Read questions 3–11. Listen to the debate again and choose the correct answer for each question.**

- Why does the student who argues in favor of “nature” use the example of the star basketball player?
  - to show that genes control ability in sports
  - to explain the meaning of DNA
  - to show that genes limit the individual’s potential
- What happened to the Romanian orphans after they were adopted?
  - They recovered physically and emotionally.
  - They recovered physically but not emotionally.
  - They did not recover at all from their experience.
- Why does the student who argues in favor of “nurture” use the example of the Romanian orphans?
  - to show how bad can experiences have long-term effects on personality
  - to show that there is no gene for love and affection
  - to criticize the conditions in Romanian orphanages
- What is the student’s reason for using music as an example?
  - to prove that there is a music gene
  - to say that good musicians don’t need to practice
  - to show that some people don’t reach their genetic potential
- What example does the student on the nature side of the debate give to show how genes can influence the environment?
  - When a parent gets angry with a child, it is because they have a bad parenting gene.
  - When a child has a naughty gene, parents respond to their bad behavior.
  - When a parent is strict with their child, they change the child’s personality.
- When a child is hungry, what do developmental psychologists recommend that parents do?
  - They should feed the child quickly in order to develop a feeling of trust.
  - They should wait to give food in order to teach the child patience.
  - They should not give the child food unless it is a mealtime.

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9. When a child has the “crime gene” and is abused, they are likely to commit crimes as an adult. What does this prove for a geneticist?
  - a. that the crime gene always produces criminals
  - b. that early experiences have no affect on personality
  - c. that genetics are more important than early experiences
10. What does the nurture theory of development suggest?
  - a. that our personality is fixed in the early years of life
  - b. that our personality develops in stages during our lives
  - c. that childhood is not important in the development of personality
11. What does the professor conclude about nature and nurture?
  - a. That nature is more important than nurture.
  - b. That nurture is more important than nature.
  - c. That both nature and nurture are important.