

Inquiry Assessment: Nature vs. Nurture in Sex & Gender Differences

Exploring Research Through Multiple Disciplines

Overall Research Question

Why can researchers never completely separate the effects of nature and nurture when studying sex- and gender-based differences?

Task Overview

In this inquiry, you will investigate how different disciplines explain sex- and gender-based similarities and differences. You will explore how biology, environment, culture, and society interact to shape human behaviour and gender expectations.

You will use perspectives from:

- **Anthropology** (culture and traditions)
 - **Psychology** (thoughts, emotions, development)
 - **Sociology** (society, roles, institutions)
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STEP 1: Exploring (A1)

Create Discipline-Based Research Questions

Task:

Use the main inquiry question above to create **3 discipline-based research questions**.

Your questions should help you investigate the topic from different perspectives.

Required Questions

1. Anthropology Question

Focus on:

- culture
- traditions
- historical change
- gender expectations in different societies

2. Psychology Question

Focus on:

- brain development
- emotions
- personality
- biological and environmental influences

3. Sociology Question

Focus on:

- social norms
 - media
 - family
 - education
 - gender expectations in society
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STEP 2: Investigating (A2)

Create a Research Plan

Task:

Create a simple research plan for your inquiry.

Include:

Sources

Find:

- 2–3 reliable sources
(articles, videos, textbooks, educational websites)
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Explain:

- why each source is useful
 - which discipline it connects to
 - Anthropology
 - Psychology
 - Sociology
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Keywords

List keywords you will search.

Examples:

- nature vs nurture
 - gender roles
 - biological differences
 - social expectations
 - culture and gender
 - psychology of behaviour
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STEP 3: Processing Information (A3)

Organize & Analyze Your Findings

Task:

Use your research to organize information from all 3 disciplines.

You may use:

- charts
 - notes tables
 - graphic organizers
 - bullet points
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Include:

Anthropology

- cultural examples
- traditions and gender expectations
- historical changes

Psychology

- biological influences
- environmental influences
- behaviour and development

Sociology

- media and social influence
 - family and education
 - social norms and gender roles
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Also Explain:

- patterns you noticed
- similarities and differences

- how nature and nurture interact together
- why researchers cannot fully separate the two

Include specific examples and evidence from your research.

STEP 4: Communicating & Reflecting (A4)

Final Product — Choose ONE

Option A: Written Response (1–2 pages)

OR

Option B: Presentation (5–7 slides)

Your Final Product Must Include

- the main inquiry question
 - your 3 discipline-based questions
 - explanation of nature vs. nurture
 - findings from anthropology, psychology, and sociology
 - examples and evidence from research
 - explanation of how biology and environment interact
 - a conclusion answering the main inquiry question
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