



## What Does It Mean to Be Human?

Design a project to illustrate your understanding of what it means to be human, from a scientific perspective. Look at your notes and think about the activities we have done to illustrate how humans are like other animals and how humans are different from other animals. The scientific perspective means evidence and inference. Choose physical characteristics and or behavioral characteristics that distinguish humans from other animals. Compare these characteristics of humans with other animals. Discuss your evidence during your presentation to show your understanding of what it means to be human.

A review of past ideas, listed below, that we have thought about in class will help in clarifying your answer. Your answer may or may not include these ideas.

- a. How humans are structured to be bipedal
- b. How human hands are similar to and different from hands of other primates
- c. How different parts of the cerebrum are associated with different behaviors
- d. How different parts of the human brain are similar to and different from the brains of other animals
- e. Why the human brain is responsible for complex human behavior
- f. How artifacts can be used as evidence to learn about culture
- g. How the long childhood of humans affects our learning, language and culture

Select a medium that you are comfortable with to create your project. Some possibilities are a poster, a diorama, a poem, a story, a report, a painting, a sculpture, a photo essay, a computer generated image, a musical piece, a play, a TV show, a video ...

There are some essays and videos in our book that may help in refining your answer to the project's question.

Essay – The Importance of Being Children - Online book pg 148-154; Paper book pg 59-62

Animal Adaptations – SciLinks code “human4E58”

Essay – On Being Human - Online book pg 155-162; Paper book pg 64-67

Video – More about the Brain - Online book pg 178 (All the videos we watch from the book can be found under the Media menu at the top of the online book window)

Project Statement – Submit a typed statement after you present your project. This statement should explain the main idea of your answer to the question “What does it mean to be human?” It should include a discussion of your evidence and any inferences you are making. Writing this out before you give your presentation should aid your explanation to the class.

The project is Due ~~October 24, 2016~~ November 1, 2016 for Periods 5, 7, and 8.

Go over the rubric to make sure what is expected of you both in the content and the presentation of the material.

Rubric What Does It Mean to Be Human?

Criteria	Excellent 4 Points	Could Be Improved 3 – 2 Points	Needs Substantial Improvement 1 point	Missing 0 point
<b>Concept:</b> Showing understanding of the big picture in this chapter	Presentation clearly summarizes the scientific understanding of the human animal and what it means to be human and refers to this main idea throughout the presentation.  4	Presentation summarizes the scientific understanding of the human animal and what it means to be human at one point in the presentation, but does not refer back to the main idea throughout the presentation.  3      2	Presentation summarizes the presenter's understanding of the human animal and what it means to be human in 1 or 2 sentences during the presentation.  1	
<b>Argument:</b> Explanation for what it means to be human, including specific evidence to support ideas	Presentation identifies physical characteristics and or behavioral characteristics that distinguish humans from all other animals. Each characteristic given is compared to another animal that shows that trait to some degree. Discussion of evidence provides some sense of the complexity of trying to characterize what it means to be human.  4	Presentation identifies physical characteristics and or behavioral characteristics that distinguish humans from all other animals. Each characteristic given is not compared to another animal that shows that trait to some degree. Presenter implies that characterizing humans is complex, but does not make the point explicitly with evidence.  3      2	Presentation incorrectly identifies physical characteristics or behavioral characteristics that distinguish humans from all other animals. Identifies ways that humans are similar to animals, but does not recognize that humans are primates. Missing key characteristics that were studied in this chapter. No attempt made to note that characterizing humans is complex.  1	
<b>Evidences &amp; Inferences</b>	Evidence presented is strong evidence. Inferences are correctly identified as inferences which logically follow from evidence.  4	Evidence presented is questionable. Inferences presented are questionable as to whether they are truly inferences (following logically from evidence).  3      2	Evidence presented is weak. Inferences are not logically based on evidence presented.  1	
<b>Presentation</b>	Presentation was obviously planned ahead of time and is well delivered. Presenter speaks expressively to the audience and gives good eye contact when talking. Presentation lasts an appropriate length of time. Presentation has both an introduction and conclusion.  4	Presentation needed to be practiced more ahead of time. Presenter usually speaks to the audience directly and gives eye contact through most of the presentation. Presentation is a little long or a little short. Presentation is missing either an introduction or a conclusion.  3      2	Presentation organization appears to be invented during the presentation. Delivery is choppy or disjointed. Presenter seems uncertain of information. Presenter reads information to the audience with almost no eye contact. Presentation is much too short (or much too long). Presentation has neither an introduction nor conclusion.  1	
<b>Points</b>	_____ x 3 =	_____ x 3 =	_____ x 3 =	_____

Total Points = \_\_\_\_\_/48