

# [Socio-biological theory of race essay sample](https://assignbuster.com/socio-biological-theory-of-race-essay-sample/)

What is race (according to this perspective)?   
\* Racial classifications are based on physical differences \* These physical differences are seen to represent underlying genetic differences. \* Physical differences: skin color, eye shape, hair texture, body shape a) Race = physical/genetic differences

b) Race = character/behavioral differences   
Assumptions: a) >>> causes >>> b)   
\* Biological determination

Where did this perspective come from?   
\* Must travel back in time, prior to the era of sociobiology

Roots:

16th Century   
\* Rare   
\* 1508   
\* William Dunbar (Scottish Poet) > “ The Dance of the Sevin Deidly Synnis” \*   
17th Century   
\* Groups   
\* Technical term > classification system (groups/a people/stock) \*   
18th Century   
\* Evaluation/Judgment   
\* Race > groups “ strange to the European eye”   
\* Race > the “ other” -> groups “ other than the European” \*

19th Century   
a) Biology/Genetics   
\* Socio-biology enters the picture   
\* Thinking scientifically about race   
\* Biological determinism   
b) Hierarchy   
\* Natural Hierarchy of human races

c) Race Scientists   
\* Ex#1. Retzius & Cephalic Index   
\* Measure of Civilization   
\* Long Heads = more civilized   
\* Round heads = less civilized   
\* Ex#2. Morton & Cranial Capacity   
\* Measure of Civilization   
\* Ex#3. Galton & Eugenics   
\* “ Science of improving the stock”

1) Goal to prove so-called superior race through selective breeding \* Breed people from “ genetically superior groups”   
2) Discourage/prohibit breeding among genetically “ inferior groups” \* Ex#4. Galton & IQ

Critical Review/Limitations:

1. Race classification schemes questionable

2. “ Races” more similar than different:   
Ex#1.   
“ Blacks” and “ Whites” have more genes in common, than genes thatdistinguish the two so-called “ Races”.

Ex#2.   
More genetic/biological variability within the “ White” race and within the“ Black” race than between “ Whites” and “ Blacks”

3. “ Racial” traits & behaviors Questionable   
No contemporary, convincing scientific evidence

4. IQ test biased

\* Otherness = strangeness   
\* Carolus Linnaeus   
\* Broca   
\* Racial determinist

Swedish   
Botanist Father of   
Zoologist Taxonomy   
Physician

Racial GroupCharacteristics/Behaviors   
Europeans= light, lively, inventive, muscular swift, clever America Indians= choleric [irritable], combative, persevering Asiatics= yellow, melancholic, inflexible, severe   
Africans= phlegmatic, indulgent, crafty, negligent, slow

It was assumed that:   
1) The groupings were accurate/true   
2) The behaviors/characters of those within particular group were accurate/true. 3) The evaluations/judgment were true