

# [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