

# Gattaca (genetic engineering) opinion piece

[Engineering](#)



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

I believe however, that a baby should be produced naturally and should not be genetically engineered as this will cause many problems in its latter life.

Discoveries by scientists have found many diseases related to genes, and I believe that genetic engineering is a way to decrease and eliminate the chances of inheriting these diseases by altering the embryo. This sounds great right? But how great is it really? Many believe that parents should be given the right to design their own child as they consider it to be a moral obligation so that their child grows up into a better adult.

However, growing up into a good person is not genetic. For example, if an alcoholic adopts their child into a stable and moral family, the child is more likely to grow up as a stable adult than alcoholic - such as the saying 'children see, children do'. Altering the embryo is not a moral obligation because it is not possible to change the moral of an unborn child. Another negative aspect is the social stigma of the child. Genetically engineered children may become an outcast in some ways and may feel rejected because of the thought that their parents did not accept them for who they were, hence changing them.

How about the competition in having the 'perfect' child throughout parents? Individuality will likely disappear if designer babies become the norm. Brothers and sisters will be different in all aspects of life. The greatest danger of G. E. will be pride. In another way, genetically engineered children may look down on the natural born children that they do not have the characteristics that they have. In , we see this with Vincent and . They are different. Vincent has bad genes, and - the genetically engineered child, has good ones.

We see also where Vincent leaves the family as he feels rejected because of what he is, also when his father says the only time you'll see a rocket is when you're cleaning inside". This shows us how these factors will affect these children. But then again, we would have a society of healthy and intelligent people. This sounds reasonable, until other factors are considered. Genetically engineering a baby would cost money, and would likely to continue rising. Engineering babies freely is not necessary if it is for pure pleasure and not medical reason. This is because for those who cannot afford it, insurance companies will not cover the costs.

This will mean that not everyone would be able to afford it and it would lead to economic differences and inequalities between the rich and poor. The rich will use the technology to develop their children into more intelligent and better children than others creating further inequality. How about our religious views? As Christians, we believe that every person is made by God in his image. Everyone is a unique individual that God has a plan for, and our bodies are the Temple of God. An embryo should be treated as a person, right from the start of that embryo as it is God's creation.

Genetically engineering a child would mean that we are tampering with the creation of God, which in 1: 14-15 clearly says "Consider God's handiwork. Who can straighten what he hath made crooked". This means no one can straighten what God has made crooked - no one can change the faults of God as it is his handiwork. If it were to become legal, then religious disputes would arise against genetic engineering. Does selecting for particular traits pose health risks? As it has rarely been tested on humans, the outcome is uncertain whether or not it does.

<https://assignbuster.com/gattaca-genetic-engineering-opinion-piece/>

However, as technology evolves, there is low numbers of research and lack of data. The outcome depends on chance. The outcome may be positive, however may be negative. A experiment carried out in 1990 on mice found a gene relating to memory. When altered in mice, their intelligence and memory showed great improvement, however, it causes increased sensitivity to pain. Is this what will happen to humans? Would a positive effect always come with a negative? Are the risks high? When it comes to saving a child from health risks when they are older, I believe we should do everything to eliminate these risks.

Testing and scanning an embryo for health traits determine the traits that can be fixed, and gives us the chance to save these embryos so to help children live a healthy life. However, parents should not tamper with God's creation. From the beginning of time, parents have cared for, taught and helped children succeed and loved and accepted them for who they are without genetic engineering. So what is the point of genetic engineering/ designer babies? Nothing. Am I against genetic engineering? Yes. Let us not do what we want for ourselves, but leave it all to God - because we don't know where it will take us in the future.