

Name _____ Section _____ Date _____

LT: I can formulate an argument about why humans are different.

Do Now: Do Now Quiz!

Does Language Make Humans Different?

Unit 6 Essay

Part 1: Assessment Overview

Big History says that language makes us humans special . Our language allows us to talk about many things including things not immediately present, such as experiences and events in the past and future. Our language enables us to collective learn, which allows us to create better and better technology.

Has it? What do you think? Does human language make us different from other animals? After all, animals have systems of communication. They communicate with each other and with us. Are human systems of communication different from those of other animals? Does that difference make us different from other species?

Part 2: Your task

Use the documents in the Investigation Library and your understanding of and experiences with language and communication to determine whether human language makes us different from other animals. Then write 2 complete paragraphs explaining your opinion. This can be typed or handwritten.

Part 3: How you'll be graded

Criteria	3	2	1	0
Organization	There is a clear, specific claim. The paragraphs each have topic and concluding sentences and relate to the claim.	There is a claim, though it may be general or difficult to find. OR The paragraphs do not fully match the claim, or are poorly organized.	The claim does not answer the question OR The paragraphs are unrelated to the claim or are poorly organized to the extent that it is difficult to follow.	There is no claim OR The paragraphs are disorganized to the extent that they make no sense.
Evidence	There are several pieces of specific, well-chosen evidence that support your claim	There is evidence present, but it may not be well chosen or lack specificity	Evidence is extremely general and based solely on personal feelings/lanecdotes rather than fact.	There is little to no attempt to include evidence.
Analysis	Evidence is fully explained, and furthers your argument in a sophisticated way.	Evidence is explained, and it is tied back to the claim.	The analysis is incorrect, overly broad, or difficult to understand.	There is little to no attempt at analysis.

TOTAL: _____/9

Does Language Make Humans Different?

Document Analysis

Choose 5 of the 9 documents to complete. This will count for a 5 point homework grade instead of the usual 3.

Document (Number & Title)	What is the main idea from this document?	This document shows animal communication/ language is....	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Exactly the same as human's <input type="checkbox"/> Similar to human's <input type="checkbox"/> Different from human's	Because....
		<input type="checkbox"/> Exactly the same as human's <input type="checkbox"/> Similar to human's <input type="checkbox"/> Different from human's	Because....
		<input type="checkbox"/> Exactly the same as human's <input type="checkbox"/> Similar to human's <input type="checkbox"/> Different from human's	Because....
		<input type="checkbox"/> Exactly the same as human's <input type="checkbox"/> Similar to human's <input type="checkbox"/> Different from human's	Because....
		<input type="checkbox"/> Exactly the same as human's <input type="checkbox"/> Similar to human's <input type="checkbox"/> Different from human's	Because....

TOTAL: _____/5

Planning Out Your Paragraphs (Not required, but helpful to some people)

Step 1: Developing a claim

1. "Language makes humans different from animals." AGREE/DISAGREE
2. Which documents or facts from class did you mind most convincing? List 2-3 below

Convincing document/fact #1:

Convincing document/fact #2:

Convincing document/fact #3:

Why are those so convincing to you? _____

Now turn it into a claim:

I agree/disagree that language makes human different from animals because _____

Step 2: Planning Paragraph 1

Paragraph one should be all about evidence that supports your claim. Choose 2 quotes or specific examples from Step 1's convincing documents.

Topic Sentence: _____

Evidence 1: For example, _____

This proves my claim because _____

Evidence 2: Furthermore, _____

This is important because _____

In conclusion, _____

Step 2: Planning Paragraph 1

Paragraph one should be a rebuttal against a different opinion. Choose 1 quote/example that supports the other side. Explain it, but make sure that you explain why you still believe your claim.

Topic Sentence: Others may argue that _____

Evidence that supports the other side

This is a good point because _____

However, I don't think it's convincing enough because _____

I still believe my original claim because _____

In conclusion, _____
