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Prompt #3

“Synchronization”

The “Nature vs Nurture” debate dates back to the mid-1800s and continues to be prevalent as a topic of discussion in our current society. Many scientists, psychologists, and theoreticians have continued to explore the concept of determining what aspect of a species overrules the disposition of its growth, success, and development in life. There are many articles written by highly educated and talented individuals where they try to explain their position regarding the issue and try to convince us, the public why we should stand on one side and not the other. However, why should we be expected to choose only one side of this theory, when it is evident that both nature and nature play a significant role in the development of any living being.

This is such a fascinating topic to discuss, especially because I can relate it to my field of study. I will be perusing higher education through Lewis University in the fall of 2023. I was accepted into graduate school to study Criminal Justice. Since I can remember I have always been fascinated by the human mind, body, and construct in relation to the world. Why are people the way they are? Why do individuals participate in acts of crime? Is it because it is in their biology or because their environment, experience, and upbringing have an impact on the way they perceive and therefore present themselves in life?

No living being is born “evil”, no individual has genetic material that will decipher whether or not they will be successful in life or choose the path of crime. Individuals as well as animals are shaped by what they are exposed to, they adapt to their surroundings and find a way

to thrive in their environment. For example, if a living being has access to all basic necessities then there is a greater probability for success. Whether we are referring to animals or humans it is my belief that both biology and the environment play a simultaneous role in the development and therefore the trajectory of a living being's life.

But what is success? Success is such a broad term when it comes to explaining who or what has obtained it. When we think about human success we think about a person who has reached their educational, career, and life goals. But success can look different for everyone, for example, a person who rehabilitates themselves after being released from prison is successful. Someone who turns their life around after reaching the bottom points of their life in my opinion is someone who has reached success.

In my current position as a child welfare specialist, I encounter many families that have been impacted by DCFS. Many families that because of the limited resources, support, and opportunities make decisions that negatively affect their children. I have worked with over 100 families all with different backgrounds, ethnicities, and cultural beliefs, and what I have come to discover is that all the families that have encounters with DCFS have external factors contributing to their behaviors/experiences. When families are referred to our department we utilize a strength-based approach to help them navigate their experience in the child welfare system. My work is a prime example that all parents have the capacity to succeed when given the support that they could not obtain from their family, community, or environment.

A living being's success cannot be measured by the genetic makeup that is in their DNA, nor can it be measured by the experiences they have been exposed to. The success that is reached by any living being can be measured by the dedication, perseverance, and determination that is shown in the process of reaching a goal. Nevertheless, those identified resilient traits do not

come naturally, there needs to be external factors that influence the willingness and ability for growth to occur. Therefore, nature and nurture play a synchronized role in the ability of any living being to reach the social construct of success.