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Video Assessment for Unit 2

Phineas Gage:

1. Why is it important for psychologists to study the human brain? What other strategies do psychologists use in studying the brain?

It is important for psychologists to study the human brain because depending on which area of the brain is affected, is dependent on the person's outcome. Psychologists study the brain and the nervous system because these parts of the body are essential to the way that people behave, think and feel. Psychology is the scientific study of people's behavior and their mind so studying the brain and nervous system is always going to be a crucial element for psychological study.

2. What are the strengths and weaknesses of case studies in helping us to understand the causes of human behavior?

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It helps guide our behaviors, it helps us plan, it helps us to carry out plans, it helps us reason about difficult topics, it helps us make certain kinds of decisions, it helps us inhibit behaviors that are not really appropriate more primitive behaviors. Example, on a diet and you said you love chocolate, and in front of you see this wonderful delicious chocolate cake, but you know you shouldn't have it. So the front of the brain knows that it is not good for me, but the back of my brain wants to give into the temptation.

3. Does nature or nurture shape adult personality?

Both nature and nurture shape adult personality, because both genetic and environmental influences impact the development of personality. The scientific field that studies the question of where differences in personality come from is known as behavioral genetics. Researchers in behavioral genetics are interested in the non-genetic determinants of personality, as well. That being said, genetic influences are unable to be studied without considering non-genetic factors, because they are all connected.