

Controversy Challenge Explanation 20.4.21

First, translate.

Wirth: Every effort to find a manic depression gene has failed. Now almost all researchers agree it doesn't exist. So if they're right, there's no such thing as genetic predisposition to manic depression.

Chang: Your premises are true, but I doubt your conclusion. Researchers found that several genes work together to predispose people to manic depression.

So we have a Debate about the role genetics plays in manic depression. Wirth says there's no single gene, so there is no genetic basis, but Chang points out that there can still be a genetic basis with more than one gene involved.

Let's take our Second Speaker Inference to identify our Controversy. What's Chang getting at here? He takes issue with Wirth's conclusion that there's no genetic basis for manic depression. Just because there's no single manic depression on-off switch doesn't mean genetics is a non-factor. If several genes work together, genetics can still predispose people to manic depression. That's our Second Speaker Inference. People are still predisposed; there's just more than one gene involved.

Now let's flip our Second Speaker Inference for our Controversy.

CONTROVERSY whether research suggests that people can be genetically predisposed to manic depression

Now we see it's a Controversy question! We just have to find our Controversy in the answer choices.

- A)** *So whether all the efforts to identify one or many manic depression genes have failed. First off, Chang agrees with Wirth's premises (that efforts to find a single gene have failed), so the first half of A is definitely out. Then we have no idea what Wirth thinks about the efforts to identify several manic depression genes that work together. Not a provable Controversy.*
- B)** *So whether it's likely that researchers will ever find a single manic depression gene. We only know from Wirth that almost all researchers think the single manic depression gene doesn't exist, but we don't know if Wirth and Chang think the search is futile. We don't have enough evidence to prove a disagreement, so B isn't a provable Controversy.*
- C)** *So whether almost all researchers agree there is no single manic depression gene. Wirth and Chang agree on this. This is one of Wirth's premises and Chang says he doesn't dispute them. C is definitely not a provable Controversy.*
- D)** *So whether research supports that no one is genetically predisposed to manic depression. Awesome! D is close to our CLIR Controversy. Wirth would agree with D, that the research suggests no one is genetically predisposed, while Chang would disagree. Chang would say that a combination of genes could lead to predisposition. D is a provable Controversy.*
- E)** *So whether the efforts to find a single manic depression gene were thorough. Classic Crazy Nonsense answer here. Who knows if the efforts were thorough? We have no information about the thoroughness of the research from either speaker, so we don't know their opinions on it. E isn't provable.*

D is the correct answer. It's the only answer that we can prove both speakers disagree on.