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Hormones, Heredity and Environment Portfolio

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When twins are monozygotic, or have the exact same genes, it is easy to change the environmental effects and see how they might affect the “same person.” Dizygotic twins are useful in that their environment is the same if they are raised in the same family home and they share 50% of their genes with each other. You can see how genetics in the same environment create differences among people.

The article basically stated that “it depends” when it comes to the effect of environment on IQ in poor versus rich homes. They said there is little sense in speaking in general about the heritability of IQ because our population in the US is so diverse. You could make your study limited to a smaller, similar group of people and draw better conclusions. When they looked at the whole US population, they got contradictory results which tells us they must change up the way the study is handled.

The conclusion of the article was basically that you can study what is heritable. They also conclude that using twins is helpful, but you must remember that the results depend greatly on the environment and the population size being studied. Most importantly, the author states that the “findings do not challenge the traditional definition of heritability - the proportion of variance on a particular trait that is accounted for by genetic factors within the population as a whole (Benson 2004).”