The 3 Main Debates in Developmental Psychology

Debate #1 - Nature vs. Nurture

Nature: We genetically inherit our physical traits from our prents but we also inherit personality traits, intelligence and preferences.	**Nurture:** The area we grew up in, how your parents raised you, your friends are all environmental factors that determine who we are.

Background: Clark Kent/Superman from Krypton was sent to Earth to survive his planets destruction. The Kent family (Jonathan and Martha) took Clark in and raised them as his own. As he grew up he had an arch nemesis: Lex Luthor. Lex's mother died and his father was a tyrant. Clark grew into a responsible young man wanted to help make the world a better place.

Using the idea of **NATURE** explain Superman's behavior in 3 or more sentences.	
Using the idea of **NURTURE** explain Superman's behavior in 3 or more sentences.	

*For the following label *NATURE* or *NURTURE*:

A child with Down's Syndrome: _____

Separated Identical twins with similar IQ scores: _____

A child with a slightly lower iq score due to hardships:_____

Debate #2 - Continuity vs. Discontinuity

Continuity: This is a way of explaining our development. Continuity is explained as development being a continuous journey. For example, a child learns to crawl, then walk, then run.	**Discontinuity:** This is explaining development through different stages. For example, in Piaget's Developmental Stages Theory, the baby goes from the sensorimotor stage where they do not have object permanence (the idea that if you can't see something it is still there) to the preoperational stage where they understand that even if Mom plays peek a boo that she is behind the hands.

Background: Peter Parker was living a normal high school student life until one day when he went on a field trip with his school to a local research lab. He was separated from his classmates and found himself in the top secret wing where he was bitten by some type of radioactive spider. He woke up the next day and suddenly had super strength and could stick to the walls.

Using the idea of **CONTINUITY** explain Peter Parker's behavior using 3 or more sentences:	
Using the idea of **DISCONTINUITY** explain Peter Parker's behavior using 3 or more sentences:	

*For the following label *CONTINUITY* or *DISCONTINUITY* :

The first 5 years of a child's life is when a child learns language. _____

As a child gets older, they acquire more skills. _____

Debate #3 – Stability vs. Change

Stability: Argues that a person's personality traits during infancy will stay the same throughout their lifespan	**Change:** Argues that our personalities are modified by events in our lifespan and our interactions with our families, schools, and friends.

Background: Bruce Wayne AKA Batman was a young child coming out of the movie theater with his parents. When a robber approached them and asked for their valuables. The parents gave the robber the valuables and then the robber shot both of them in front of Bruce Wayne. His mother fell to the ground and in almost every version of Batman the pearls around her neck break and fall around her. Bruce was driven young man and decided to fight crime.

Using the idea of **STABILITY** explain Batman's behavior using 3 or more sentences:	
Using the idea of **CHANGE** explain Batman's behavior using 3 or more sentences:	

*For the following label *STABILITY* or *CHANGE*:

A young child who is very shy grows up to be a very introverted and shy adult: _____

When a young trusting woman got out of an abusive relationship she became very distrusting: _____

The cranky child grew up into a cranky adult: _____