



NAME: _____ DATE: _____ CLASS PERIOD: _____

Teacher's Hippocrates's Quote

"It is more important to know what sort of person has a disease than to know what sort of disease a person has."

commonly attributed to Hippocrates (460 B.C.E. – 377 B.C.E.)

1. What is the main point of the quote? Please rewrite it in your own words.

Students may rewrite the quote in many different ways that can be summarized as, The key to curing someone's disease is knowing about the person—physical and emotional, body and mind, etc.—more than knowing the disease. The perspective in this quote is that individual biological (perhaps, what we now call genetic) factors, including psychological ones, affect or cause one's ailments.

2. Do you agree with its perspective/theory? Explain and support your answer by giving at least one example from your own experience or observation.

Student answers may vary. Guide student thinking with questions such as, Are angry people more likely to suffer from certain ailments? What about people who are inactive? Are people with sunny dispositions more likely to be healthy or not? Do you connect certain health problems with particular groups of people (whether by temperament, gender, or age)?

However, guide students away from the perspective that a person "causes" her or his own illness. It is important that students understand that while there are ways we can affect our health through the choices we make, being who we are does not, for example, cause us to develop cancer or diabetes.

3. What can you tell about Hippocrates based on the information?

Student answers may vary, but one possible response is that Hippocrates must have been a close observer of the human body and behavior. Also, Hippocrates looked to concrete and observable elements in an individual for determining causes of illnesses.