

# Human Nature?

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**ESSENTIALISM** is the belief that *essence precedes existence*, that humans are born with a nature (e.g. the Christian idea of original sin) and that they do what they do because of what they are.

**EXISTENTIALISM** is the belief that, as French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980) says, *existence precedes essence*, that humans are born without a nature (i.e. *tabula rasa*) and that they create one by their decisions and behaviors throughout life.

*Batman's girlfriend says:*

"It's not who you are underneath. It's what you DO that defines you."

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## What do you think?