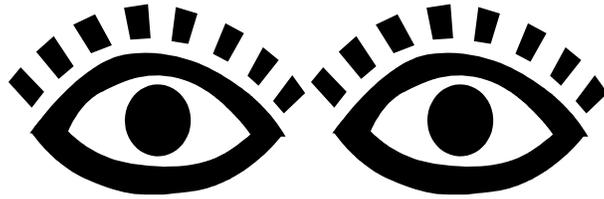


# CONCEPT ATTAINMENT



## Examples: Inherited Vs Learned

### Yes

1. Freckles
3. Dimples
5. Eyelashes
8. Nose
9. Eye Color
10. Height
13. Curly Hair
14. Straight Hair

### No

2. Walk
4. Talk
6. Diet
7. Reading
11. Driving
12. French
15. Traditions
16. Tongue Rolling\*

\*Tongue Rolling has long been taught as an inherited trait; however, our most recent genetic studies show this is not the case (2002).

## **Background Information**

The concept attainment strategy motivates students to use critical thinking strategies to find critical attributes of a given concept. It seems like a game to students, but it actually requires higher level thinking skills.

For the examples, show words on large sheets of colored paper. Clip art is a nice addition that makes the examples more interesting to students. Sequence the items in the order provided. Always start with a “yes” example. Follow with a “no” example. The additional examples should be given in random order. Do avoid giving too many “no” examples at one time. They are given to help clarify what the “yes” examples have in common.

Finally, never give the concept to the students. Also, have them give “yes” examples to verify they know the concept. Do not let them give the answer until you ask for it at the end.

### **Directions:**

1. Give the examples in the order listed.
2. During the strategy, ask for additional “yes” examples to verify that students are getting the concept. Ask for examples more than once in the presentation, but do not ask for them prior to the “twist”.
3. A “twist” is included to promote higher-level thinking. (Students are lead to think a concept until an example stumps them and causes them to regroup). In the inherited vs learned, height is a twist. The “yes” examples relate to the face, and the word “height” changes the thinking.
4. Once most students seem to have the concept, ask for critical attributes that describe the concept.
5. List the critical attributes or characteristics on the board.
6. Ask for the concept.