

The Mind-Body Problem

Brain Studies

Introduction

The Mind-Body Problem is a philosophical problem in philosophy of mind that is concerned with the relationship between the relationship between our physical bodies (and brains) and the thoughts that we have.

All of us have thousands of thoughts every single day. But, have you ever thought about what exactly a thought is? Is it a thing? Can we find thoughts in a particular part of our brain? It isn't obvious how thoughts and our brains relate to one another. We may have feelings of sadness (a thought) that leads to us crying (a physical event) but how one causes the other is not readily understood.

Watch the two short videos (The Crash Course *Where Does Your Mind Reside* and *Two Minute Neuroscience: fMRI*) and then answer questions 1 - 6 in your notebook.

Question 7 is an extra credit opportunity. Type your response to this question and submit in Classroom.

Analysis Questions

1. Who was Phineas Gage and why is he important in the history of neuroscience.
2. Describe the basic premise of **reductive physicalism**.
3. Describe the basic premise of **substance dualism**
4. Explain how an **interactionist** uses the ideas of both reductive physicalism and substance dualism.
5. Explain if the *Mary's Room* thought experiment supports reductive physicalism or substance dualism.
6. Do the results of experiments using fMRI support physicalism or dualism? Explain.
7. Based on your own personal experiences and beliefs, would you describe yourself as more of a reductive physicalist or a substance dualist? Give three specific examples from your own life or observations to support your argument.