

Human Nature?

ESSENTIALISTS believe 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.

EXISTENTIALISTS believe, as philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980) says, that *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.

So, which is it?