In this sample reaction paper the student reacts/responds to movie she reviewed “Trading Places” and related it to Chapter 3.

For your in class Reaction Paper assignment, you will relate what happened in the movie to what we discussed/learned in Chapter 8.

The movie entitled trading places was extremely interesting and knowledgeable. The film dealt with numerous factors within chapter 3 (Evolution, Genes and behavior). Trading places is about two millionaire brokers by the name of Randolph and Mortimer who wager a bet that dealt with environment vs. biology. They called it a scientific experiment, nature vs. nurture and placed a one dollar bet to show how two lives would change if they “traded places” and equally changed their environment (living and working conditions) and financial resources. In chapter 3 we learn that “nativists emphasize genes and inborn characteristics or nature and empiricist focused on learning and experience or nurture.” The Dukes (millionaire brokers) conduct this experiment by purposely switching the lives of two completely opposite beings of who neither have an inkling of what was occurring.

The move is relevant to chapter 3 through various aspects. For instance both men wind up adapting to their new environment. This dealt with adaptive behavior in the chapter. For instance each character was able to become accustomed to their new life style. Valentine learned how to work, live and mingle in a completely different environment from where he came from which was the streets. Winthrop was able to become accustomed to being poor and learned survival techniques on the street by doing things such as selling his watch in order to get fifty dollars for food.

The move also dealt with the concept of sociobiology which emphasizes evolutionary explanations of social behavior in both animals and humans. One aspect of the film that dealt with the concept of Sociobiology was the sexual
strategies of females. The theory of sociobiology states “that females are very cautious when choosing a partner and will look for a mate who possesses financial stability and security.” This is shown in the movie through his fiancé who leaves him when he was no longer wealthy and possessed a stable live. This proves the theory of sexual strategies that she only stayed with him because he was wealthy and apart of her preferred lifestyle. When he was in jail, didn’t have a job, accused of using drugs, unable to buy her expensive things and kicked out of the elite social club, she didn’t want anything to do with him.

Throughout the movie we see Nature and Nurture interacting to produce the person we ultimately become and how the process called “Natural Selection” comes into play. This theory states “individuals with genetically influence traits that are adaptive in a particular environment tend to survive and reproduce in greater numbers than do other individuals and as a result, their traits become more common in the population.” In other words over generations we select those traits necessary for our survival. It also showed that psychology diversity is adaptive. As the chapter states:”Each of us has something valuable to contribute, whether it is artistic talent, academic ability, creativity or a sense of humor. Society requires we possess many of these traits to survive.

This movie was great and conveyed excellent examples of what I learned. It vividly showed if a human is placed in a different environment they find ways to conform and survive in their new surroundings.