

Avoiding Plagiarism

Original Source

The human brain, once surrounded by myth and misconception, is no longer such a mystery. It is now understood to be the supervisory center of the nervous system, and, as such, it controls all voluntary (eating and thinking) and most involuntary behavior (blinking and breathing).

The brain functions by receiving information from nerve cells that are located throughout the body. Recent research has provided a clear picture of exactly what happens when information first reaches the brain. It has been discovered that the cells that receive the information in the cortex of the brain are arranged in a regular pattern in columns. The columns are, in turn, arranged into a series of "hypercolumns." Each cell within each column has a specific responsibility to perceive and analyze certain kinds of incoming information. Within the columns, the analysis of this information follows a formal sequence.

Eventually, the information is relayed to the higher centers of the brain where a complete picture is assembled. The brain then evaluates the information and either sends a return message or stores the information for later use. The return message travels through the body in the form of electrical and chemical signals via the billions of nerve cells (neurons). When the message reaches its destination, the muscles or glands respond with the appropriate reaction.

Basic Paraphrase

The human brain controls all voluntary and most involuntary behavior. The process begins when the brain receives information from nerve cells located throughout the body. This information is received by brain cells arranged in a series of columns with each cell having a specific responsibility to analyze certain kinds of incoming information. After the information has been analyzed, it is sent to the higher centers of the brain where a complete picture is put together. The brain then evaluates the information and either stores it for later use or sends a return message to the muscles and glands, which react appropriately ("The Brain" 26).

Paraphrase with Quotation

The human brain controls all voluntary and most involuntary behavior. The process begins when the brain receives information from nerve cells located throughout the body. "The cells that receive the information in the cortex of the brain are arranged in a regular pattern in columns. . . . Each cell within each column has a specific responsibility to . . . analyze certain kinds of incoming information" ("The Brain" 26). After the information has been analyzed, it is sent to the higher centers of the brain where a complete picture is put together. The brain then evaluates the information and either stores it for later use or sends a return message to the muscles and glands, which react appropriately.

Professional

A very different form of music unique to Louisiana is the accordion music of the Cajuns. Groups of musicians travel from town to town performing at all-night dances called *fais-dodos* (literally, "go to sleep"). A Cajun band usually consists of a fiddle, guitar, accordion, and set of steel triangles. Many of the rollicking tunes came from France in the early 1700s. But the songs, though usually sung in French, are often distinctly American in theme. Even the vicious bayou mosquitoes are a worthy subject: "The mosquitoes have eaten up my sweetheart! They have left only two big toes!"

Deborah Kent, *America the Beautiful: Louisiana*

You might paraphrase the paragraph as follows:

Student

According to Deborah Kent, a distinct type of music is found in Louisiana. Cajun bands that travel through Louisiana towns play accordion music at all-night dances. The bands feature instruments such as a fiddle, a guitar, an accordion, and a set of steel triangles. Many of the lively tunes they play came from France in the early 1700s. The songs, sung in French, usually concern American subjects, such as the unbelievable fierceness of swamp mosquitoes.