

Writing Assignment 2 Symptoms and Selection

According to Nesse and Williams, Darwinian medicine considers medical problems in an evolutionary context to understand why we get sick. They suggest that many symptoms of common ailments, such as cough or fever, have evolved through natural selection, but they do not fully explain how this might happen.

Select one common symptom (or “defense”) and discuss how all three requirements for natural selection might or might not apply to this symptom today (in other words, how natural selection is currently operating on this symptom, not why or how the symptom originally arose). Given your explanations, is it likely that this symptom is a “Darwinian” defense mechanism?

Your essay should be no longer than **2 double-spaced pages**.

The purpose of this essay is to explain to your reader how natural selection may or may not influence our health. Please focus on writing clear, concise sentences and well-organized paragraphs.

Due date: Thursday, September 27