

1 At a physical level a mind is that which resides in the brain. One can argue
2 that it cannot be physically placed, so we're not really interested with what the mind
3 is in the physical sense; we're more interested with its functions and importance.
4 Our mind is what thinks; in a way it is what is "us" and what defines our whole
5 selves. All species share a basic mind template, but each species has individual
6 aspects that endow them with specific qualities. For humans, this is our intellect.
7 What else is the basis of virtue, knowledge, and our clever thinking if not a trait of
8 intellect.

9 A body needs a controller, without one it would not know how to react and
10 support the functions we are used to it doing. Think of the body as an empty shell.
11 There may be aspects of what makes us up there, but nothing that knows how to
12 weave them together into the coherent wholes that we are. The mind is this
13 controller as it manages every aspect of the body through nervous pathways and
14 blood streams. Maybe thinking of computers is a way to process this correlation, but
15 at the same time we are far more than organic robots controlled by our minds. So
16 what more might there be in this relationship to give the mind more weight?

17 Let us consider this. Brains are the storage devices for information that
18 support our minds, but they do not have the power to solicit knowledge that will
19 make them better. The mind, and especially our intellect, is what governs our
20 learning capacity. To actively learn is the definition of what separates us from
21 programmable animals. It is what our minds are great at to assist our bodies in their
22 task that without the mind they'd be lost at. Anything that is alive can be taught

23 anything, but to synthesize that knowledge and seek out more of it is where we see
24 our minds placing us above other species.

25 So what does this all tell us about what it means to be human?

26 Unquestionably this shows us that having a mind with the traits of those that allow
27 for intellectual activity is key. Defining humanity with this definition of the mind on
28 the table helps us define humanity with the core of what makes us who we are
29 understood. Stiff bodies can be defined as humans in a physical sense, but to be
30 human you must be alive (we are animals and organic compounds, right?) and for
31 this a mind is the crucial link.

32 Minds can have a physical representation by way of our brains, but are
33 themselves much more capable and not as much of a general-purpose component of
34 the body. They are, though, a central component of the body in that they enable the
35 body to have control and sense. Defining humanity with this requires the additional
36 recognition that actively seeking out new knowledge is part of what separates our
37 minds from those of other beings. To be human one must not only have the physical
38 parts but also must contain a mind so that what is humanity is embodied in them.