**Introductory Paragraph**

Our Close Relatives?

Humans have a relative called the gorilla that displays several similarities to humans.

Whether gorillas can be called “close relatives” to humans is an interesting question, though.

Gorillas look so much like humans that explorers thought that gorillas were a tribe of hairy people.

They were given their name “gorilla” by an explorer because the word “gorilla” means “tribe of hairy people” (“Gorilla,” March 2014).

Like chimpanzees and orangutans, gorillas are anthropoids which means “resembling man” (“Webster’s,” 1961, p. 38).

In addition to their physical appearance, their social life and their daily activities make gorillas so similar to humans that they might be considered close relatives.

**Detail Paragraph**

As mentioned, gorillas are similar to humans physically.

Most obviously, both gorillas and humans can stand upright and walk on two feet.

Gorillas mainly do this when they are carrying something or using a tool.

Humans walk on two feet whenever they move around.

Additionally, gorillas are about the same height as humans when standing.

The average height of male gorillas is five feet six inches (“All about gorillas,” 1999); however, male gorillas have been known to stand as much as six feet four inches tall (“What is”, 2014).

In the U.S., the average height of a human male is five feet ten inches (“Template,” 2014).

Also, gorillas and humans have fingerprints that are unique.

All gorillas and humans can be identified solely by their fingerprints.

Interestingly, gorilla DNA is very similar to human DNA.

About 98% percent of their DNA matches human DNA (“DNA,” 2012).

**Concluding Paragraph**

In sum, gorillas are similar to humans with regard to how they look, how they relate to each other, and the activities in which they engage.

Mainly because they can walk upright and are similar in size to humans, they have an overall similar appearance, and their DNA is almost a complete match to human DNA.

Like humans, gorillas relate to each other within families and have definite roles in these families.

Also similar to humans, gorillas engage in daily activities including obtaining food, communicating with each other, and manipulating tools.

All of these traits make them close relatives to humans in the animal family, but probably not kissing cousins!