

## Why Chinese Mothers Are Superior Wall Street Journal, 2011

By and about Amy Chua, author of the book *The Tiger Mother*.

Here are some general questions not tied to specific places in the reading. (It's a very quick read.) For each group you are asked to choose the statement that suggests the general thrust of the opinion by Amy Chua—the approach to child-rearing and learning that she favors. Then give your opinion regarding which approach might be more conducive to the creation of a work of genius. (And again, is “success” the same thing as “genius”?)

- A. Encourages open thinking across disciplines
  - B. Encourages intensively focused thinking within disciplines
- Which do you think is more conducive to genius? \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Encourages (values) focus and concentration
  - B. Encourages (values) defocused thinking and day dreaming
- Which do you think is more conducive to genius? \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Encourages (values) “success”
  - B. Encourages (values) “failure”
- Which do you think is more conducive to genius? \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Encourages association and experiences with other people
  - B. Discourages association and experiences with other people
- Which do you think is more conducive to genius? \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Encourages activities that include or are driven by having fun
  - B. Encourages activities that develop discipline
- Which do you think is more conducive to genius? \_\_\_\_\_

- A. The best results can always be attained through positive encouragement
  - B. Tough love, no matter how demeaning (“Hey fatty”), leads to the best result
- Which do you think is more conducive to genius? \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Encourages a narrow curriculum and straight A grades
  - B. Encourages a broadly-based education at the expense of straight A grades
- Which do you think is more conducive to genius? \_\_\_\_\_

Why might immigrants to the U.S., and the children of those immigrants, be more inclined to choose the approach of Amy Chua than parents whose forebears had been in the U.S. for generations?