

JOURNAL ENTRY #4

Eric Weiner's chapters on Calcutta and Vienna contain many examples of comparison/contrast with the earlier locations and the geniuses who lived in them. As he develops his thesis about the ingredients of a "genius cluster," his examples begin to coalesce; his evidence gathers momentum as he works deductively and inductively to achieve synthesis.

What similarities and differences do you recall among the various clusters so far? Consider Athens, Hangzhou, Florence, Edinburgh, and now Calcutta and Vienna. If you were asked to write an essay today about the "ingredients" of a genius cluster according to Weiner, which items would top your list? Also, take a moment to consider differences and anomalies. What things don't fit the model? Are there gaps in Weiner's argument? What counterarguments occur to you as you read his book? What unspoken assumptions form the basis of his argument?

Write without stopping for 15 minutes.