

## JOURNAL ENTRY #1

Eric Weiner's introduction to *The Geography of Genius* defines the term *genius* as "extraordinary intellectual power" that manifests itself in creativity which, he argues, is more a product of nurture than nature. In short, Weiner claims it "takes a city to raise a genius." The rest of his book explores six historic cities and one modern one that are famous for spawning clusters of geniuses, resulting in history-making advances for human civilization.

Based on Weiner's introductory essay, what do you anticipate you'll find in the chapters ahead? What sort of predictions can you make about Weiner's topic? What knowledge or experience do you already have about Athens, Hangzhou, Florence, Edinburgh, Calcutta, Vienna, and Silicon Valley? To what extent do you feel prepared to read this book? What, if anything, about it makes you anxious?

Write without stopping for 15 minutes.