

How to Write an Analysis – Methodentraining Teil 2 (Klasse 10–12)

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M 1 What people say about journalism

1. "The smarter the journalists are, the better off society is. For to a degree, people read the press to inform themselves – and the better the teacher, the better the student body."

*Warren Buffett (*1930, American business magnate)*

Source: <http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/press.html>

2. "If journalism is good, it is controversial by its nature."

*Julian Assange (*1971, Australian publisher and founder of WikiLeaks)*

Source: <http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/j/julianass41370.html>

3. "In the real world, nothing happens at the right place at the right time. It is the job of journalists and historians to correct that."

Mark Twain (1835–1910, American author and humorist)

Source: <http://thinkexist.com/search/search/quotation.asp?search=journalist&page=4>

Task

Read the quotations above. Choose the verbs from the list below which you think express what journalism is about, according to each of the quotations. Write the number of the quotation under the verb (e.g. quotation 1 = to inform).

to inform	to entertain	to instruct	to persuade	
(1)				
to dramatise	to ridicule	to report	to amuse	to make aware of
to confront the reader with s.th.	to explain	to teach		
to convince	to point out	to criticise	to comment on	

M 2 Education: Drill or leisure?

No play dates, no sleepovers, no school plays ... but several hours of music practice every day. In her provocative memoir "Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother" (2011) Amy Chua promotes a tough parenting style. Find out what the author of this article thinks about Chua's views on education.

The human race needs elephant mothers, not tiger mothers

Where is the appreciation that we are social animals in Amy Chua's competitive approach to parenting?

By Peter Singer, 13 February 2011

5 Many years ago, my wife and I were driving somewhere with our three young daughters in the back, when one of them suddenly asked, "Would you rather that we were clever or that we were happy?"

I was reminded of that moment last month when I read my Chua's Wall Street Journal article, Why Chinese Mothers Are Superior, which
10 sparked more than 4,000 comments on wsj.com and over 18,000 comments on Facebook. The article was a promotional piece for Chua's book, Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother, which has become an instant bestseller.



Amy Chua, author of *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother*

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15 Chua's thesis is that, when compared with Americans, Chinese children tend to be successful because they have "tiger mothers", whereas westerners have "elephant mothers", or worse. Chua's daughters, Sophia and Louisa, were never allowed to watch television, play computer games, sleep over at a friend's home, or be in a school play. They had to spend hours every day practising the piano or violin. They were expected to be the top student in every subject except gym and drama.

20 Chinese mothers, according to Chua, believe that children, once they get past the toddler stage, need to be told in no uncertain terms when they have not met the high standards their parents expect of them. (Chua says that she knows Korean, Indian, Jamaican, Irish, and Ghanaian mothers who are "Chinese" in their approach, as well as some ethnic-Chinese mothers who are not.) Their egos should be strong enough to tolerate it.

25 But Chua, a professor at Yale law school (and his husband), lives in a culture in which a child's self-esteem is considered so fragile that children's sports teams give "Most Valuable Player" awards to every member. So it's not surprising that many Americans react with horror to her style of parenting.

30 One problem in assessing the tiger-mothering approach is that we can't separate its impact from that of the parents' devotion to their children. If you want your children to be at the top of their class, it helps if you and your partner have the brains to become professors at elite universities. No matter how hard a tiger mom pushes, not every student can finish first (unless, of course, we make everyone "top of the class").

35 Tiger parenting aims at getting children to make the most of what abilities they have, and so seems to lean toward the "clever" side of the "clever or happy" choice. That's also the view of Betty Ming Liu, who blogged in response to Chua's article: "Parents like Amy Chua are the reason why Asian-Americans like me are in therapy."

40 Stanley Sue, a professor of psychology at the University of California, Davis, has studied suicide, which is particularly common among Asian-American women (in other ethnic groups, more males commit suicide than females). He believes that family pressure is a significant factor.

45 Chua would reply that reaching a high level of achievement brings great satisfaction, and that the only way to do it is through hard work. Perhaps, but can't children be encouraged to do things because they are intrinsically worthwhile, rather than because of fear of parental disapproval?

I agree with Chua to this extent: a reluctance to tell a child what to do can go too far. One of my daughters, who now has children of her own, tells me amazing stories about her friends' parenting styles. One of them let her daughter drop out of three different kindergartens, because she didn't
 45 want to go to them. Another couple believes in "self-directed learning" to such an extent that one evening they went to bed at 11pm, leaving their five-year-old watching her ninth straight hour of Barbie videos.

Tiger-mothering might seem to be a useful counterbalance to such permissiveness, but both extremes leave something out. Chua's focus is unrelentingly on solitary activities in the home, with
 50 no encouragement of group activities, or of concern for others, either at school or in the wider community. Thus, she appears to view school plays as a waste of time that could be better spent studying or practising music.

But to take part in a school play is to contribute to a community good. Talented children may away, the quality of the production will suffer, to the detriment of the others (to take part and of the
 55 audience that will watch it). And all children whose parents forbid them from participating miss the opportunity to develop social skills that are just as important and rewarding – and just as demanding to master – as those that monopolise Chua's attention.

We should aim for our children to be good people, and to live ethical lives that manifest concern for others as well as for themselves. This approach to childrearing is unrelated to happiness: there is
 60 abundant evidence that those who are generous and kind are more content with their lives than those who are not. But it is also an important goal in its own right.

Tigers lead solitary lives, except for mothers with their cubs. We, by contrast, are social animals. So are elephants, and elephant mothers do not focus only on the wellbeing of their own offspring. Together, they protect and take care of
 65 their young in the herd, running a kind of daycare centre.

If we all think only of our own interests, we are headed for collective disaster – just look at what we are doing to our planet's climate. When it comes to raising our children, we need fewer tigers and more elephants.

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Vocabulary Aids

2 **appreciating**: understanding, awareness – 3 **approach**: Ansatz – 10 **to spark**: (here) to cause the start of s.th. – 14 **to tempt**: to be likely to do s.th. – 15 **pussycat**: humorous term for s.b. who is surprisingly kind, gentle – 19 **toddler**: Kleinkind – 20 **in no uncertain terms**: directly, clearly – 21 **"Most Valuable Player" award**: Auszeichnung als bester Spieler – 27 **to appraise**: to judge or determine the value, quality or importance of s.th. – 27 **impact**: a powerful effect that s.th. has on a situation or person – 39 **achievement**: s.th. very good and difficult that you have done as a result of hard work – 40 **to encourage**: to talk or behave in a way that gives s.b. confidence to do s.th. – 41 **intrinsically worthwhile**: an und für sich erstrebenswert – 42 **extent**: degree – 42 **reluctance**: unwillingness – 48 **counterbalance**: Gegengewicht – 48 **permissiveness**: when behaviour which some people might disapprove of is allowed – 49 **unrelentingly**: in an extremely determined way – 49 **solitary activity**: s.th. you do alone – 53 **community good**: Wohl der Gemeinschaft – 54 **to the detriment of**: to the harm of – 55 **to bar s.b. from**: to forbid s.b. s.th. – 56 **rewarding**: making you feel satisfied that you have done s.th. important or useful, or done s.th. well – 56 **demanding**: needing much time, effort or attention – 58 **to manifest**: to show – 59 **childrearing**: the process of taking care of and bringing up children – 60 **abundant evidence**: plenty of proof – 60 **content**: satisfied, pleased – 62 **cub**: here: a young tiger – 63 **offspring**: a person's child, children – 64 **daycare centre**: Kindertagesstätte – 65 **to be headed for collective disaster**: auf eine gemeinschaftliche Katastrophe ausgerichtet sein

M 3 Comment, review or report? – Defining types of texts

It's a newspaper article. – Yes, but ... can you go into more detail?

1. Match the following terms with the correct definition.

a comment a review a human interest story a report an editorial

- a) A description of an event or situation based only on the facts is called _____.
- b) An article which shows general problems by concentrating on an individual case to catch the reader's interest and make him feel for somebody is called _____.
- c) Any kind of article that expresses the journalist's opinion is called _____. There are several forms. Here are two examples:
- d) If an article concentrates on the journalist's view of a new film or book, the article is called _____.
- e) This article expresses the editor's opinion on a theme which is very relevant at the present time. It shows the newspaper's general tendency. This type of article is called _____.

2. Now to you.

What type of text is *The human race needs elephant mothers, not tiger mothers*? Explain your choice.

M 4 Argumentative, narrative or descriptive – what is the text like?

Read these quotes taken from the article *The human race needs elephant mothers, not tiger mothers*. Then decide what kind of text it is.

"Chua's theory is ..." (l. 4) "One problem in assessing the tiger-mothering approach is ..." (l. 27) "I agree with Chua to this extent" (l. 42)

- This text is basically **expository**. It explains complex facts and describes them objectively. The journalist informs the reader about ...
- This text is mainly **argumentative**. It aims at convincing the reader of/that ... It evaluates a problem subjectively. It gives reasons for or against something.
- The text is mostly **narrative**. It tells the reader the story in chronological order.
- This text is **descriptive** for the most part. It shows a person, place, object or event in such a detailed way that the reader can almost feel, see and hear it.

Can you find three more examples in the text to support your choice?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

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