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Response to Tan

Multitasking across school with preferences

I believe in my life as well as Amy Tan's life choosing preferences can cause a struggle. In high school my preferred subject was chemistry, while Amy Tan's preferred subject was English.

My life in sophomore year of high school was comparable to Amy Tan's years of high school English and Math. In school, Amy Tan compared her English and Math skills: "compared to math, English could not be considered my strong suit." This shows how Ms. Tan had a low confidence in school because her English was not as much as she had hoped for compared to Math. In high school, in my report card, my grades for chemistry were higher than my grades for English. Because I wanted to get into a good college, I wanted to be a good overall student, were not as similar to each other, then I felt lower confidence in myself as a student.

Similarly, standards of focusing on subjects posed certain challenges. Amy Tan describes that "teachers... are steering them away from writing and into math and science, which is what happened to me." Amy Tan putting more attention into math and science compared to English would have made her very worrisome in her English, and therefore could have made English less of her best subject. My high school often focused on science compared to all the other subjects. This made it so that when I focused on chemistry I was distraught on focusing on both chemistry and English equally.

These challenges were met head-on. Despite the stereotypes Amy Tan faced, “fortunately, [she] happen[s] to be rebellious in nature and enjoy the challenge of disapproving assumptions”. By deciding to focus primarily on English, Amy Tan improved her confidence in herself as well as her English skills. In my sophomore class, I decided to put more interest into general parts of class relating to each other. By doing so, I stubbornly decided to persist with the general idea of focusing on science to focus on science classes to also focus on English which made me more stubborn in being an overall student.

Having multiple preferences is very demanding. This can lead to multitasking preferences being much of a struggle. This can be seen when Amy Tan was multitasking her preference of English compared to most subjects being a struggle, which compared to my life of multitasking English and chemistry.