

Innate Intelligence vs. True Grit

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<https://www.globalcognition.org/innate-intelligence-vs-true-grit/>

My dad used to say, “It’s not the dog in the fight, it’s the fight in the dog.”

He had several other antiquated gems for expressing that core idea – success is often less about natural talent than it is about persistence in pursuit of one’s goals.

Emily Hanford describes a study about [the role of perseverance in achievement](#) on MindShift. The findings bring us back to those oft-spoken words of wisdom from our dads.

The [original research](#), conducted by Angela Duckworth and colleagues, uses a simple measure of “grit” and shows it to be of equal importance to [intelligence](#) for explaining success in a variety of intellectual tasks.

The results fit in well with other studies of [talent and expertise](#) that commonly conclude that intrinsic interest in the discipline, a burning desire to achieve, and dedication to thoughtful practice over an extended time are essential to top performance.

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