

Preparation: Read “No Name Woman” and “White Tigers” from Maxine Hong Kingston’s book, *The Woman Warrior* (the former a handout, the latter the next-to-last selection in the packet, pages 19-53).

Due Dates: **Proposal** due April 13 by noon. **Reading Notes** and **draft** due Wed., **4/18**. Note the date; use the week to read, write Notes AND write a draft, which you can further shape after discussion. **Revisions** due following week, **4/25**.

Length: Proposals: 1-2 paragraphs. Drafts: 4-6 pages. Revisions: 4-7 pages.

Audience: Magazine readers unfamiliar with our class; provide context

Purpose: To examine the role of heroes and ideals in identity and autobiography. First, identify the ideals in the fantasy of “White Tigers.” Consider the roles these ideals serve for a young Chinese-American woman.

TOPIC: Write about the role of “White Tigers” for Maxine Hong Kingston and the identity she claims, that of Chinese-American daughter whose parents work in a California laundry after immigrating from China. Her mother trained as a doctor and uses “talk-story,” a way of conveying mixed information that Kingston and many readers find hard to interpret at first. What does the story allow that everyday reality does not? Who or what do the white tigers represent? Who or what does Kingston become by writing this story? (If you wish, speculate about ways that this story represents or falsifies Kingston’s life.) Does the fantastic nature of the story bother you? Why or why not?

OR—Write a fantasy of your life that includes some recognizable qualities as well as ideals you hold. Instead of writing about becoming another Bill Gates, actor, or other celebrity, be true to yourself and more creative. (You might analyze a hero/ine, identify the qualities you admire, as an analytical paper, but at least toy with the idea of writing a 5- or 10-years-from-now fantasy of your ideal self.) What would have to happen for you to achieve your goals? What plot would include those circumstances?