

45-60 Minutes In-Class for Writing and Discussion

The goal of this assignment is to encourage students to consider their own place in a larger field of inspirational relationships, to recognize and prepare themselves to engage actively those people in their lives whose qualities they would like to foster within themselves, both personally and professionally. Successful responses will be as much self-reflection as community appraisal. As humans alive in a social world, each of us finds in others fragments of our own better selves, and learning to see those fragments as mirrors into which we have the power to live is part of what it means to become successful professionals in our own chosen fields.

Prompt: Think about the heroes, fictional or otherwise, who inspired your childhood. What about their stories impressed you? What characteristics did they bring to bear on moments of crisis or loss? How did they respond to success and good fortune? What three adjectives would you use to describe them?

Now, think about adult life. In what way(s) have your childhood heroes become more or less relevant to your current experience? Can you understand their superpowers in terms of your own circumstances?

Finally, bring this reflection into your mundane, day-to-day life. In what contexts do you spend the majority of your time? Think about your time at school, at work, at home, on the field, in the studio... wherever it is that you pass your hours. Who are the people, in those contexts, who you would consider successful? What about them measures their success for you? How would you cobble together a complete rendition of your future most successful self, from the characteristics or qualities that you honor in others?