

1086-K1-2897      **Mark Kozek\*** (mkozek@whittier.edu), Department of Mathematics, Whittier College, Whittier, CA 90608-0634. *A Freshman Writing Seminar on Mathematics*. Preliminary report.

In this preliminary report we reflect upon our experience teaching a freshman writing seminar using reading material about mathematics.

Mathematicians, more so than any other academics in modern lore, seem to lead extraordinary lives that blur the boundaries between fact and fiction. They include a French political radical who died in a duel at the age of 20, a British code-breaker who built the machine that cracked the Nazi's ENIGMA cipher during World War II then lost his security clearance for being homosexual, and Ukrainian siblings who chased and caught a unicorn in a small castle in Manhattan – all of whom have been immortalized in writing or on film.

In this freshman writing seminar students will examine some of these amazing mathematical characters, their fictional alter egos and the issues, mathematical or otherwise, inherent to their stories. Using sources that include literature, historical texts, films, and documentaries, students will work from a model of writing that emphasizes logical structure, deductive reasoning, critical thinking, and proper citation. (Received September 26, 2012)