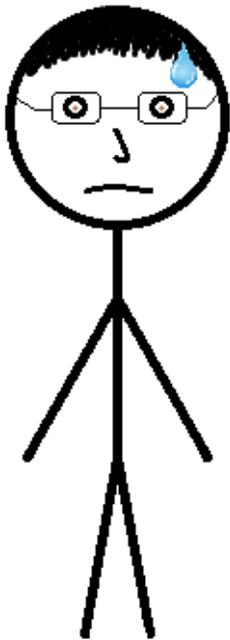
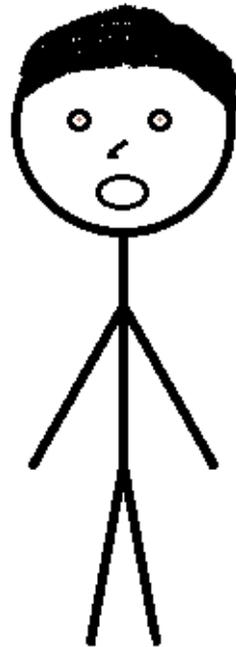


Asian: Model Minority Myth

You're Asian
yet you can't
even do this?



$$\iint_R x^2 + y^2 \, dx \, dy$$
$$R = [a, b] \times [c, d]$$



Reading Response Five

My experience of the UCSD campus correlates with Angela's Kong analysis of the misperception of Asian Americans as a model minority. One time, when I helped a friend was asking me for help on a couple of calculus problems, he thanked me, and said "as expected of an Asian". His comment initially made me happy, as I perceived the comment as my friend praising my math aptitude. However, after reading Kong's analysis of the Asian American model minority myth, I realize that I should not have felt happy about my friend's comment. My friend's comment clearly demonstrated the perception of Asian Americans as a model minority. Instead of praising me as an individual, my friend's comment implied that an aptitude for math was expected of all Asians. This perception of Asian Americans places a pressure on Asian Americans to excel in math or be considered failures in society. Growing up in a Chinese-Vietnamese household, this pressure is all too familiar to me. I had always considered math as something I had to excel in, without fail. Reading Kong's analysis changed my perception of Asian Americans, as well as the campus climate of UCSD.

Before being introduced to Kong's ideas, I did not really perceive much discrimination in my experience at UCSD. However, after reading Kong's analysis, I realized that the times that someone attributed my academic ability to my Asian heritage was, in fact, discrimination. Because I am Asian, I am held to higher standards than the rest of my peers. If I fail to meet those standards and expectations, I am deemed a failure. The generalization of Asian Americans as a model minority is ubiquitous on the UCSD campus, from simple comments such as "You're Asian, you must be good at math" to jokingly calling an Asian American a failure for getting a B+. I had never viewed these comments as discrimination before, and instead perceived them as compliments or encouragement to perform better. Now I know better, and realize that those generalizations, although unintended, were in fact discrimination.