Although I had done peer reviews before, it was not until this class that I shifted away from the more surface areas of grammar and syntactical errors and began to truly read for coherence in content. I now like to read the entire paper before I begin to make any comments; After having read through to the end, I can give better feedback about the semantic elements of the paper, rather than reading blind and giving comments on content before I even truly understand the argument. Because of this, my peer edits are helped in a way a cursory grammar check never could be. I strive to make my edits something that could not be achieved by a machine, something that reaches beyond the realms of spell check.

In turn, I received excellent critique from my classmates, and not just in grammatical matters, either. I, of course, appreciated when it was pointed out to me that I had comma splices or had forgotten to capitalize but even more helpful was when structural failings in my argument were brought to my attention. It is easy to edit for grammar; there are distinct rules between right and wrong. It is significantly less easy to look at your own argument, something you crafted and honed yourself, and have to admit that it is less than logical. It is the hardest type of editing, and I am lucky to have gotten assistance from my peers with it.

Michael’s paper, my first peer review in this class, also happened to be on the same piece I used in my first essay, “No Name Woman.” It was interesting to see just how varied the arguments of two people who had read the same work and studied it in the same class could be.
Who’s name lives on?

The Importance of recognition based on “No Name Woman”

“No Name Woman” is a tragic short story depicting the unfortunate necessity of recognition in society. A young woman is forced to succumb to the rules of society. The young girl is so distraught she is compelled to not only kill herself, but her young child also. Her recognition drives her reasoning to not allow the child to live, and to demolish their place in society. Recognition drives “No Name Woman” to succumb to her societies wishes and ultimately drives her to suicide and murder.

Throughout every society, people seek to be recognized, to be noticed, to have a good reputation.

In 1924 American society and Chinese society, this is still true. A no name woman is developed by the moral standards dictated by the society. This moral
dictation is the complete reason of how a no name woman was made: she denied to accept her society’s position on adultery. Due to this, she was disowned by her family, her husband, and even her own village. Society was not accepting of a mistake. The no name woman’s past dictates her reputation. This horrid reputation drives her family to decline any remembrance of her; no recognition is established with her past. Society dictates the recognition a person will receive.

People are recognized by their reputation. The consequences of this is apparent through the parents in law of the no name woman kick her out not only because she had a child illegitimately from their son, but also because they did not want to be recognized with the reputation of the young girl and her possibly promiscuous ways. The father of the baby is never revealed because the No Name Woman realizes that it would drastically affect his position in the society. The sister is disowned by her own family and left to be self-dependent; hoping not to be bombarded constantly and have all of what she has demolished. Recognition
and reputation are hand-in-hand in the perspective of society.

A mother reveals this story as caution to her daughter whom is becoming of age to have a child (theoretically). The story is an outside perspective of a mother not only not knowing the complete story, but also her story is interpreted by her move to America. The move to America changes her ideals and this slightly construes the story. The mother has the ideals of a Chinese village woman, but also the perspective of an American. The mother's story attempts to use pathos as an appeal to the girl. Her father had a sister (whom never gains a name throughout the story) that no one speaks of due to the disgrace she brought upon the family. The mother describes the hardship the sister was forced to endure due to her pregnancy. The sister noticeably becomes noticeably larger. The rest of the village they lived in realized this, they also realized the sister's husband has been gone and the child was not his. They realized this was an illegitimate child. The mother dangles on the misconception of no one truly knowing how she
became pregnant. If the sister was raped, if she was promiscuous, it doesn’t matter: she is recognized as the woman who was having a child out of the bondage of marriage. The mother uses this to reveal to her young child that she would be disowned by her own family if she becomes pregnant. This story serves as caution to the mother’s daughter.

The destruction of the sister’s name in society forces her to end both her and her child’s life. The sister has destroyed her and her family’s reputation. The reputation was so misrepresented that with the sister killing herself, there is no attribute to the two deaths, nor any recognition of any existence. The lack of recognition is supposed to be the driving force of the daughter to not be promiscuous, not be raped, not have a child illegitimately in any way. She young pregnant girls consoles herself by revealing that the only reason she is killing the child also, is because the child is more than likely a girl: the girl would be repetitively ridiculed throughout her life. Killing the child is supposedly protection from what would happen in future recognition. If the daughter manages
to have a child she will lose her name to the family and in society.

The pregnant young girl realizes the importance of a reputation never reveals who the father is nor how she became pregnant. The pregnant sister is denied by her family. She does not wish this upon the babies dad; therefore, she does not reveal who the babies father is. His lack of recognition in the story allows him to be spoken of and not disowned from society, nor his family. Also, his lack of recognition in the story focuses the story on the pregnant woman, and not the father. Recognition is contributed by reputation.

The daughter allows the name of the “no name woman” to live in society by writing this story. Everyone else in her family purposefully forgot about this No Name Woman. No one knew about this no name woman, but now every time the short story is read, her name is brought back to life. The daughter feels a certain kinship to the No Name Woman relating by feeling outcasted in society. This keeps the No Name Woman alive although she is truly dead.

A “No Name Woman” is created by not only society, but a young girls family. If the family name is not held up in a society there is a risk of being
disowned. Never spoken of, the only way the young girl lived on is through the story being read. A person’s identity in society is completely dependent upon the recognition, or lack of recognition, that one receives.

Comment: You had good ideas, but you need to add a lot of details, probably through quotes. Also, find a way to distinguish between the narrator and her aunt. At times it is hard to understand who exactly you are talking about. You also might want to choose a word other than recognition; it fits strangely. Maybe consequences or something reputation would be better.