

ACTIVITY 17

What's in a Name?

Purpose: Explore the relationship between our names, our identities, and the societies in which we live.

ADVISOR NOTES:

1. Before the advisory session, prepare the quotations on the **What's in a Name? Gallery Walk Quotations** handout for a **gallery walk**. Visit facinghistory.org/advisory-media to learn about the Gallery Walk teaching strategy.
2. Consider modeling the Sketch to Stretch strategy by making your own visual for a quotation about names that you share during the advisory session. You can find examples of this strategy online.

APPROXIMATE TIME:

40 minutes

MATERIALS:

HANDOUT

What's in a Name? Gallery Walk Quotations

Colored markers and paper

PROCEDURE:

1. Start with a Gallery Walk

- Start by inviting your advisees to circulate around the room and read the quotations about names. Let them know that they will have a chance to discuss the quotations in a few minutes.
- Next, invite advisees to stand by the quotation that most interests them. Perhaps they connect personally with the idea or they aren't quite sure what it means. After everyone is standing by a quotation, have each group take their quotation from the wall and sit together in a circle. Divide groups larger than four into smaller groups or pairs. Students who don't have a group can work alone if they feel passionate about their quotation or join another group.

2. Sketch to Stretch

- To help your advisees explore their quotations in more depth, have them discuss the following questions in their small groups:
 - Why did you choose this quotation?
 - What do you think it means?
 - What ideas about names do you think the writer or speaker wants us to consider? What's worth talking about?
 - What questions does your quotation raise for you?

- Then pass out markers and photocopy paper or chart paper. Explain to the group that they will have seven minutes to create a visual representation that captures the main idea of their quotation. They can incorporate words or phrases from the quotation into their sketch if they wish. Challenge them to use color, symbols, and images and remind them that they are creating a sketch and not a masterpiece!
- After seven minutes, invite volunteers from each group to share their quotation and visual. They can also share highlights from their discussion.

3. Discuss What's in a Name?

- Sit in a circle to discuss the following questions as a group. Remind advisees that they can refer to the name quotations to support their thinking.
 - Are our names the same as who we are?
 - How do our names relate to our identities?
 - In what ways can names be empowering? How can names be limiting?
 - What are some things we can do in our advisory group to make sure that names are always empowering and never limiting? How about in our school?



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Gallery Walk Quotations

Directions: Before the advisory session, print this handout and cut apart the quotations. Glue or tape each quotation to a piece of paper for the gallery walk.

"If I'm gonna tell a real story, I'm gonna start with my name."

–Kendrick Lamar, *Vulture*

"What's in a name? that which we call a rose / By any other name would smell as sweet."

–William Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet*

"Call him Voldemort, Harry. Always use the proper name for things. Fear of a name increases fear of the thing itself."

–J. K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

"A wife should no more take her husband's name than he should hers. My name is my identity and must not be lost."

–Lucy Stone, nineteenth-century abolitionist and suffragist

"Tigers die and leave their skins; people die and leave their names."

–Japanese proverb

"It is through our names that we first place ourselves in the world. Our names, being the gift of others, must be made our own."

–Ralph Ellison, *The Collected Essays of Ralph Ellison*

"I'd be stupid not to take into consideration that there are certain things people will not consider me for because my name is Lopez. And I know I can do any kind of role. I don't want anybody to say, Oh, she can't pull this off. So those are barriers that you have to overcome."

–Jennifer Lopez