

## Name Story

<p><b>Overview</b></p>	<p>In this icebreaker activity, students will have the option to share their first name, middle name, last name, nickname, or any name that has a history or story such as the name of a pet or nickname given to a friend or family member. Students might consider the significance of the name, where the name comes from, or what particular meaning the name has for them.</p> <p>While this activity is intended to be inclusive, there are some considerations for you to make when implementing it in class. For some students, their name story may require them to disclose personal information that they may not be ready to share in such a setting. For example, a transgender student may not feel comfortable discussing their name as it may require that they disclose their transgender identity. For other students, their family name may be triggering as it relates to a part of their identity that is associated with trauma.</p> <p>For these reasons, it is best to not use this activity on the first day of class. If you do plan on using this activity, give students advance notice that it will be used in a future class and let them know of the different options they have when it comes to discussing a name that has meaning to them. Furthermore, students should never be forced to participate in an activity they do not feel comfortable participating in, and this should be announced to the class as well.</p>
<p><b>Goals</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To help build community by having students share a name that has particular significance for them.</li> <li>2) To give a sense of the variety of cultures, identities, and histories that students bring with them to the classroom.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Implementation</b></p>	<p>This activity is best used as an icebreaker after the first day of class. As noted in the overview, students should be given advance notice of this activity to allow them to think about what name they would like to share/if they would like to participate. You can have students focus on their first name, middle name, last name, nickname, or any name that has particular significance for them.</p>
<p><b>Challenges</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Some students may experience unease about their names, as noted in the overview.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Make sure the students know of the different options they have when it comes to sharing a name.</li> <li>b. Leave the prompts broad and tell students that they don't need to answer all of the prompts as a way to give them more freedom to disclose only what they are comfortable sharing with the class.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<p><b>Materials</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Pen and paper for each student</li> </ol>

# Session Sequence

Lesson Structure	Time <i>(Estimated amount of time for each component)</i>	Activity Content and Instructions
<b>Introduction</b>	3 mins	The instructor welcomes the class and provides an overview of the icebreaker: students will learn more about their classmates by hearing stories associated with a particular name they chose to
<b>Name Game Activity</b>	5-10 mins	<p><b>Individual student activity</b></p> <p>1) Provide prompts for the students to choose from. Possible prompts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Who are you named after and why?</li> <li>b. Where does this name originate from?</li> <li>c. Who named you?</li> <li>d. Who chose the spelling of this name?</li> <li>e. Why did you choose this name (for a pet/friend/family member)?</li> <li>f. What special meaning does this name hold for you?</li> <li>g. Do you have any memories or stories associated with this name?</li> <li>h. Do you like this name? Why or why not?</li> <li>i. If it is a name you chose for yourself, why did you choose this name in particular?</li> </ul> <p>2) Give students some time to jot down their thoughts about their name story.</p>
<b>Introductions</b>	15 mins	<p><b>Come back together as a class and have students present their name stories. There are two options for this portion of the icebreaker:</b></p> <p>1) Have students introduce themselves to the class and share their name story.</p> <p>2) Have students pair up and share their name stories with a partner. You can then have partners share each other's name stories with the class.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Note: this will extend the activity length</li> </ul>
<b>Wrap-Up</b>	5 mins	<p>Point out that this was a first step to building community in the classroom and that we will continue to engage in community building activities throughout the semester.</p> <p>As a fun way to close the activity, see if there is a student who can recall all of the different names shared in class.</p>