

PRIDE NAME ACROSTIC

MATERIALS |

paper and writing utensils

OBJECTIVES | The objectives of this activity are for participants to learn each other's names while building relationships by learning more about each other's specific life experiences.

FACILITATOR INSTRUCTIONS |

Introduce the concept of "pride"

- Ask participants what they think it means to be proud of something. Write list on the board as they brainstorm.
- Share that being proud means we appreciate something about ourselves, that we value ourselves, and that we think highly of something we have done or something about ourselves. You can be proud of many different kinds of things—something you are good at (like drawing), something you have accomplished (like doing all of your homework), something about yourself, your family, or your ancestors (like the fact that your grandmother fought for Civil Rights), something you did not do (like not throwing something even though you were really angry), something you have overcome (like making it to school even if no one in your family wakes you up to get you there).

Introduce the importance of names.

- Ask participants to brainstorm why names are important.
- A few points you could make: everyone's name is different; sometimes our names reflect our culture, background, and history; sometimes people decide to change their names for various reasons; our legal names might be different than what we would like to be called; some people like their names and some people do not; some people experience bullying or favor as a result of the name they have; in the United States most people do not get to pick their own names; names can be a great point of connection because we all have them!

Participants write their names down the left side of a piece of paper and then think of a word or phrase that corresponds with each letter and represents something about themselves that they are proud of. For example, if your name is SHAYLA, your acrostic may read: **S**illy, **H**ardworking, **A**ware of those around me, **Y**outhful spirit, **L**oving, **A**dventurous. Facilitators should model sharing their own name (first name only or full name), what they prefer to be called, and what words describe things about themselves they are proud of.

After everyone finishes working independently each person should share their name and why they chose their specific words or phrases with a partner or group.

DEBRIEF QUESTIONS |

- How did it feel to do this activity?
- What is something special about you that you are proud of? Why?
- What things do you have in common with others? In what ways are you different?



SUPPORTING MEDIA |

<https://www.michiganlearning.org/sharing-who-we-are/>

NOTES |

Participants may choose their first name, middle name, last name, nickname, or any combination of the above for this activity.

Extend this activity by discussing different naming customs common in different cultures, the importance of honoring the name that a person would like to be called, or why names are often connected to future opportunities.

Consider connecting this activity to diverse picture books or other texts that explore the importance of names or pride.