

Diversity Activities

What's In a Name?

Objectives

1. To discover the diversity of ethnic backgrounds within a group.
2. To discover shared values across ethnic boundaries.
3. To build rapport among group members.

Time

10 - 15 minutes

Materials

- Whiteboard or flipchart

Instructions

1. Divide participants into groups of 4 - 6.
2. Ask participants to share the story of their names with the rest of the group.
 - How did your parents choose your name?
 - What is the meaning of your name?
 - What is the ethnic origin of your family name?
3. Reconvene the group after everyone has had a chance to share their story, and ask the following questions, listing answers on the whiteboard or flipchart.

For Discussion

1. What ethnic heritages are represented by the family names in this group? (Count total when finished.)
2. What are some reasons your parents chose your names?
3. What do our names reveal about what our families or society values?
4. What similarities or differences do names reveal in the values of the various ethnic backgrounds?