



Introduction:

“Say My Name” is a video created by Chinese international students at Columbia University in response to a xenophobic prank where name tags displaying Chinese names were ripped off of residence hall doors (Yan, 2017). The targeted students created the video to share the significance and meaning behind their names. In this activity, participants will watch the Say My Name video, along with a video interviewing the students involved, and discuss the personal and cultural importance behind names as well as the importance of respecting names and pronouncing them correctly. Furthermore, they interrogate how racism and stereotypes can affect how individuals perceive themselves and aspects of their identity (such as their name).

Participant Instructions:

1. You will begin by watching two videos.
2. After watching the videos, debrief with the following questions:
 - Why are names important?
 - How do names relate to personal and cultural identity?
 - Why did the students from Columbia University create the Say My Name video? Why is it significant?
 - What sorts of origins stories did they identify for their names? Do you have any similar stories about your own names?
 - How do you think it made the students feel when they realized that they were the targets of a racist/xenophobic prank? How would you feel if that happened to you?

Note: There may be participants who have experienced racism because of their name/culture, so approach this question sensitively and do not push students to share stories that may be painful.

 - Why do you think Chinese students often adopt an “American” name while in the United States? How might that affect their sense of identity?
 - Why is the pronunciation of a name important?
 - What did you learn about names, culture, and identity from these two videos?