

ASA Resource Ideas for Domain 3

Domain 3 - Social Relationships: Self, Groups, and Socialization



Assessable Competencies

3.2 Students will explain the process of the social construction of the self.

- 3.2.1 I & Me
- 3.2.2 Role-taking
- 3.2.3 Generalized Other
- 3.2.4 Identity

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Presenter - Hayley Lotspeich, Wheaton North High School, Wheaton, IL
Hayley.Lotspeich@cusd200.org

What's In a Name????? - A Sociological Analysis

Lesson 1 Ask students to write down what they visualize if the following people walked into your classroom.... Describe the person as you see the person in your head; clothing, posture, height, weight, hair color, skin complexion, facial features, etc.

Troy O'Leary

Give students a couple of minutes and then ask them to draw a line and repeat the same procedures for the next name.

Eugene Levy (pronounced Leevée)

Ask students to share their descriptions of Troy O'Leary. (Based on repeated lessons, I would guess you will have a number of white, red headed, tall, medium weight males....) Show them the photo.

Troy O'Leary is a former professional baseball outfielder who played with the Milwaukee Brewers (1993-1994), Boston Red Sox (1995-2001), Montreal Expos (2002) and Chicago Cubs (2003). He batted and threw left-handed. In an 11-season career, O'Leary posted a .274 batting average with 127 home runs and 591 runs batted in in 1198 games. He was the Boston Red Sox Rookie of the Year in 1995....

Now, discuss what students imagined when they heard the name Eugene Levy.... Does he wear glasses? Is he wearing "nerdy" clothing? (That's what my students predict.) Show them the photo.

Eugene Levy is a Canadian actor, comedian, producer, director, and writer. He is the only actor to have appeared in all eight of the *American Pie* films, in his role as Noah Levenstein. Levy is a regular collaborator of actor-director Christopher Guest, appearing in and co-writing four of his films, including with *Waiting for Guffman*. He appeared in *Splash*, *National Lampoon's Vacation*, *Club Paradise*, *Stay Tuned*, *Multiplicity* and other comedies. He currently stars in Season 4 of the CBC series *Schitt's Creek*.

Lesson 2 The point is, a name gives us an idea or something to identify a person with. Names are important. I like to assign students to go home and ask their parents why they chose their names. Since it is the beginning of the year, it is an early way for students to recognize the human interaction in the stories they have for the selection of their names....

I then explain that people sometimes change their names to reshape their identities. Explain that each of the celebrities in the handout goes by a name different from the one he/she was given at birth. Ask students to try to match the birth name to the "stage name." The most important part of the activity is at the end when students try to predict why the names were chosen. I have included some of those stories on the answer key....

Lesson 3 Consider following up the lesson with the "Why Your Name Matters" assignment. On the back, they submit to a name analysis as well as compare and contrast the most popular names in the United States over different years.

Resources

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R9TWt_9ARrg White Names v. Black Names, Freakonomics Excerpt

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jx28xWYV7aI> Friends Clip - Ross and Rachel Discuss Baby Names

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NRUdaWZ4FNO> Seinfeld Clip - Seven as a Baby Name



Can you match the Celebrity to His/Her Real Name?



Real Name	Celebrity Name
Ramon Estevez	
Paul Rebenfeld	
Nicolas Coppola	
Ralf Lipschitz	
Jennifer Anastassakis	
Calvin Broadus	
Dwayne Douglas Johnson	
Eric Marlon Bishop	
Tracy Morrow	
Artis Ivey, Jr.	
Carlos Ray	
Robert Van Winkle	
Henry Oleusegun Olumide Samuel	
James Todd Smith	
Christopher Bridges	
Brian Warner	
Stanley Kirk Burrell	
Richard Melville Hall	
Chaim Witz	
Marshall Mathers	
Peter Gene Hernandez	
Paul David Hewson	
William Bailey	
Caryn Elaine Johnson	
Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta	
Adam Richard Wiles	
Robyn Fenty	
Samuel Timothy Smith	
Leslie Lynch King, Jr.	
Jonathan Leibowitz	

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|------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Axl Rose | Bruno Mars | Bono | Chuck Norris | Coolio |
| EminEm | Gene Simmons | Gerald R. Ford | Jamie Foxx | Ice T |
| Jennifer Aniston | Jon Stewart | Lady Gaga | Calvin Harris | LL Cool J |
| Ludacris | Marilyn Manson | Martin Sheen | MC Hammer | Moby |
| Nicolas Cage | PeeWee Herman | Ralph Lauren | Rhianna | The Rock |
| Seal | Snoop Dog | Tim McGraw | Vanilla Ice | Whoopi Goldberg |

On the back, pick any 5 to discuss. Why do you think they chose to be known by another name? Do you think their new name is better fitting or should they have stuck with the names on their birth certificates? Explain.....

Can you match the Celebrity to His/Her Real Name?



Real Name	Celebrity Name
Ramon Estevez (Actor)	Martin Sheen
Paul Rebenfeld (Actor/Comedian)	PeeWee Herman
Nicolas Coppola (Actor)	Nicolas Cage
Ralf Lipschitz (Designer)	Ralph Lauren
Jennifer Anastassakis (Actor)	Jennifer Aniston
Calvin Broadus (Musician)	Snoop Dog
Dwayne Douglas Johnson (Actor)	The Rock
Eric Marlon Bishop (Actor)	Jamie Foxx (gender/line up for stand up) (Red Foxx)
Tracy Morrow (Actor/Musician)	Ice T
Artis Ivey, Jr. (Musician)	Coolio
Carlos Ray (Actor)	Chuck Norris
Robert Van Winkle (Musician)	Vanilla Ice
Henry Oleusegun Olumide Samuel (Musician)	Seal
James Todd Smith (Musician)	LL Cool J (Ladies Love Cool James)
Christopher Bridges (Actor/Musician)	Ludacris
Brian Warner (Musician)	Marilyn Manson (Marilyn Monroe and Charles Manson)
Stanley Kirk Burrell (Musician)	MC Hammer
Richard Melville Hall (Musician)	Moby (Great nephew of the author of Moby Dick)
Chaim Witz (Musician)	Gene Simmons (child of Israeli immigrant who wanted to hide his Jewish roots)
Marshall Mathers (Musician)	EminEm
Peter Gene Hernandez	Bruno Mars (was being told to sing Latin music, even record in Spanish)
Paul David Hewson (Musician)	Bono (Bono was originally a nickname, short for "Bono Vox" meaning "good voice" in Latin)
William Bailey (Musician)	Axl Rose
Caryn Elaine Johnson	Whoopi Goldberg (Her mother thought a Jewish sounding name would help her in comedy)
Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta	Lady Gaga
Adam Richard Wiles (Musician)	Calvin Harris (wanted a more African American sounding name to be accepted as a soulful singer)
Robyn Fenty (Musician)	Rihanna
Samuel Timothy Smith (Musician)	Tim McGraw
Leslie Lynch King, Jr. (President)	Gerald R. Ford (took his stepfather's name. His biological father was an alcoholic who threatened to kill him and his mother. His mother left his father when he was 16 days old.)
Jonathan Leibowitz (TV Personality)	Jon Stewart

WHY YOUR NAME MATTERS

By Maria Konnikova December 19, 2013

New Yorker Magazine

<http://www.newyorker.com/tech/elements/why-your-name-matters>



In 1948, two professors at Harvard University published a study of thirty-three hundred men who had recently graduated, looking at whether their names had any bearing on their academic performance. The men with unusual names, the study found, were more likely to have flunked out or to have exhibited symptoms of psychological neurosis than those with more common names. The Mikes were doing just fine, but the Berriens were having trouble. A rare name, the professors surmised, had a negative psychological effect on its bearer.

Since then, researchers have continued to study the effects of names, and, in the decades after the 1948 study, these findings have been widely reproduced. Some recent research suggests that names can influence choice of profession, where we live, whom we marry, the grades we earn, the stocks we invest in, whether we're accepted to a school or are hired for a particular job, and the quality of our work in a group setting.

In 2004, the economists Marianne Bertrand and Sendhil Mullainathan created five thousand résumés in response to job ads posted in the classifieds in Chicago and Boston newspapers. Using Massachusetts birth certificates from between 1974 and 1979, Bertrand and Mullainathan determined which names appeared at a high frequency in one race but at a low frequency in another, creating groups of what they termed "white-sounding names" (like Emily Walsh and Greg Baker) and "black-sounding names" (like Lakisha Washington and Jamal Jones). They also created two types of candidates: a higher-quality group, with more experience and a more complete profile, and a lower-quality group, with some obvious gaps in employment or background. They sent two résumés from each qualification group to every employer, one with "black-sounding" name and the other with a "white-sounding" one (a total of four CVs per employer). They found that the "white-sounding" candidates received fifty per cent more callbacks, and that the advantage a résumé with a "white-sounding" name had over a résumé with a "black-sounding" name was roughly equivalent to eight more years of work experience. An average of one of every ten "white" résumés received a callback, versus one of every fifteen "black" résumés. Names, in other words, send signals about who we are and where we come from.

The economists Steven Levitt and Roland Fryer looked at trends in names given to black children in the United States from the nineteen-seventies to the early aughts. They discovered that names which sounded more distinctively "black" became, over time, ever more reliable signals of socioeconomic status. That status, in turn, affected a child's subsequent life outcome, which meant that it was possible to see a correlation between names and outcomes, suggesting a name effect similar to what was observed in the 1948 Harvard study. But when Levitt and Fryer controlled for the child's background, the name effect disappeared, strongly indicating that outcomes weren't influenced by intrinsic qualities of the name itself. As Simonsohn notes, "Names tell us a lot about who you are."

The relevant question may not be "What's in a name?" but, rather, "What signals does my name send—and what does it imply?"

1) Some recent research suggests that names can influence (at least 3 examples) _____

2) According to the research of Marianne Bertrand and Sendhil Mullainathan, what do names send signals of? _____

3) What did Steven Levitt and Roland Fryer learn in their studies about names that sounded 'more distinctively 'black''?

(OVER)

Go to <https://www.kabalarians.com/cfm/what-does-my-name-mean.cfm>

Enter your first name only.

Was there anything in the name analysis that you feel accurately describes you? Explain.

Was there anything in the name analysis that you feel DOES NOT accurately describes you? Explain.

Now try another name, maybe the name you prefer to be called or your middle name or the name you would have if you could have chosen it for your name. This name is _____

Read the analysis.

Is this name a better or worse reflection of you? Explain.

Go to <https://www.ssa.gov/oact/babynames/>

Click on "popularity of a name". Type in your name and select from 1900 & later for years. Select male or female.....

1) How popular was your name in the most recent year?

2) What year was your name most popular?

Repeat the steps with your middle name.

3) How popular was your middle name in the most recent year?

4) What year was your middle name most popular?



Created by Hayley Lotspeich, Hayley.Lotspeich@cusd200.org