“What’s in a Name” Journal Assignment

In Language Arts class, we talk a lot about words and a lot about identity. This journal assignment will ask you to write about both! Please follow the directions below and answer the following questions in four different paragraphs (a paragraph is 4-5 sentences).

Paragraph 1: Pick ONE of these two options to write about in Paragraph #1:

* Option 1: Interview members of your family to find out additional details about your name. You can ask questions about **why** you were named as you were, what **other names** were considered, and **who ended up picking** out your name. **Ask about your first name, middle name or nickname**. Record your findings in complete sentences.
* Option 2: Look up the **origin** of your first or last name and explain the history or meaning behind it (use **behindthename.com** as a potential resource). Observe the **trends** of how common your name is or has been in the past. How do you **feel** about what you learned about your name (are you surprised, happy, disappointed, etc...)?

Paragraph 2: How do you feel about your name? How do others respond to your name?

Paragraph 3: If you could pick out your own name, what would you select? Why? If you wouldn’t change your name, explain why as well.

Paragraph 4: How does your name play a part in discovering your identity? Do you think your name currently reflects who you are?

Spelling and grammar will count, so proofread your work carefully. You may write or type your assignment. *Please fill out the checklist and staple this sheet to the back of your journal assignment.* DUE Friday, 9/23

**STUDENT CHECKLIST:**

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| --- | --- |
| I have four paragraphs that have at least 4-5 sentences each.  |  |
| I interviewed someone to find out about my name or researched the origin of my name.  |  |
| I proofread my work carefully or had someone proofread it for me.  |  |
| I used my best handwriting or a legible font (if typed).  |  |
| **I have circled the paragraph I would like you to grade the most heavily for conventions such as complete sentences, spelling and grammar.**  |  |