

René Has Two Last Names

March 7, 2017

INTRODUCTION

Ice Breaker

Behind Every Name- Conversations with the ball
See handout with questions

Definition of Culture

The focus of this book is to help students learn to respect different cultural customs and traditions, understand the importance of maintaining customs, and have an inclusive mindset. Culture is a shared system of meanings, beliefs, values, and behaviors through which we interpret our experiences. It is learned, collective, and changes over time. Each of us has a cultural identity. This makes us unique and contributes to diversity in our communities.

Explain

The story I will be sharing with you today is drawn from the author's, René Colato Laínez, own personal immigrant experience. This is why the boy's name in the story is the same as the author's name. The author tells the story of a boy from El Salvador who has two last names, unlike his classmates who only have one last name. In many Latin American countries, it is a cultural tradition and a common practice for people to have two last names and sometimes even two first names. The first last name usually comes from the dad and the second last name from the mom.

- Does anyone in this class have more than one last name?
- Do you know anyone who does have more than one last name? Or two first names?

BOOK

Read the title and show the cover of the book. Ask students to think about the title. Start by asking students a few questions.

- How does it feel when someone knows your name?
- How does it feel when someone doesn't know your name?
- How does it feel when someone mispronounces your name?
- How does it feel when someone makes fun of your name?

Read Book

After the book. Discuss:

1. Rene' is bothered that his name changes when he comes to the US. What other things might have changed for Rene'?
2. How does he *use his lid* when he is teased?
3. Has anyone ever made fun of you because you were different? (name, cultural tradition, or physical attribute) How did that make you feel?
4. What will you think about or do next time you feel different?
5. What advice would you give to another student who was feeling this way? Have you ever helped a new student feel more comfortable? What did you do?
6. Do you think difference and diversity are important in a community? Explain why or why not.
7. How would you feel if someone else decided to change your name?
8. Would you ever want to change your name? What new name would you choose?
9. Have you ever moved to a new school? Was it easy or difficult to make new friends? What did you miss about your old home/school?
10. What other cultural references are in the story? (René had pupusas and horchata for dinner? What are pupusas? What is horchata?)
11. What foods are from your culture? Do you eat foods from other cultures?

Extend the conversation (3-5th graders):

Having two last names is significant in Latin America because it represents a person's identity. It is also a form of showing respect to both sides of the family. However, here, in the United States, only one last name is used. When people move from Latin America and other countries to the United States they may have to choose only one of their last names, resulting in losing part of who they are. Their identity becomes incomplete. This is exactly what happened to René in the story.

- In addition to cultural reasons, why might someone have two last names? (Less than half of children under 18 live in a home with married parents in a first-time marriage. More than half of children have other family circumstances! Be aware that students in your class may be from non-traditional families.)
- Do adopted children take new names or keep the names on their birth certificates?
- If a family has two moms or two dads, how do they decide on names? It makes sense for families choose to give two last names to their children to represent everyone.

VIDEO 1:

My Name My Identity:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tMH5xn5syqc&index=4&list=PLBsUra9Uf_EzXhxS-en3zvP759UAApzsK

(<https://www.mynamemyidentity.org>)

NAMING TRADITIONS - see Yael's handout

VIDEO 2:

Charlie's Crouzon Story

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNFbfm5Z1Dw&index=5&list=PLBsUra9Uf_EzXhxS-en3zvP759UAApzsK

Diversity Wheel

We see differences in others. We accept the differences in others. We *UPstanders* know that in spite of our differences, we all want to be treated in ways that make us feel safe and cared for. Look at the diversity wheel. Think of how you would identify yourself on this wheel.

Here are five guiding principles that promote diversity and inclusion:

1. Embrace and nurture each individual for who they are.
2. Recognize and value all dimensions of diversity.
3. Work towards the greatest possible inclusion.
4. Foster global awareness.
5. Lead with empathy in all interactions and activities.

Difference -something that is not the same about two or more people.

Diversity- having a lot of variety; being made up of many different kinds of people.

Ask students in grades K-1:

What do you think of when you hear the word different? On chart paper, make a word web of ways people or things might feel or seem different from each other. (See questions 3 and 4 in discussion.)

- Has anyone ever made fun of you because you were different? (name, cultural tradition, or physical attribute)
- How did that make you feel?
- What will you think about or do next time you feel different?

ACTIVITIES

Hands (insert picture from Pinterest)





"I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."
- Martin Luther King, Jr.



CLOSING

Take pledge to correctly pronounce names (<https://www.mynamemyidentity.org>). This website can help:

<http://www.pronouncenames.com>



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Behind Every Name Icebreaker*

Have the group circle up (sitting or standing). Toss the ball around or across the circle. When players catch the ball, they should answer the following questions:

- What is your name?
- Are you named for a particular person or reason?
If so, who or for what reason?
- Do you like or dislike your name?
Explain why or tell what you'd like to be called?
- Where were you born?
- What is important to you about your heritage?
- What one thing would people be surprised to know about you?
- What are you proud of?

Going Deeper

What did you discover about others in the group? About the various things you're proud of?

Did you discover anything you have in common with others that you didn't realize before?

How does your family heritage enrich your life?



*From *Great Group Games* by Susan Ragsdale and Ann Saylor



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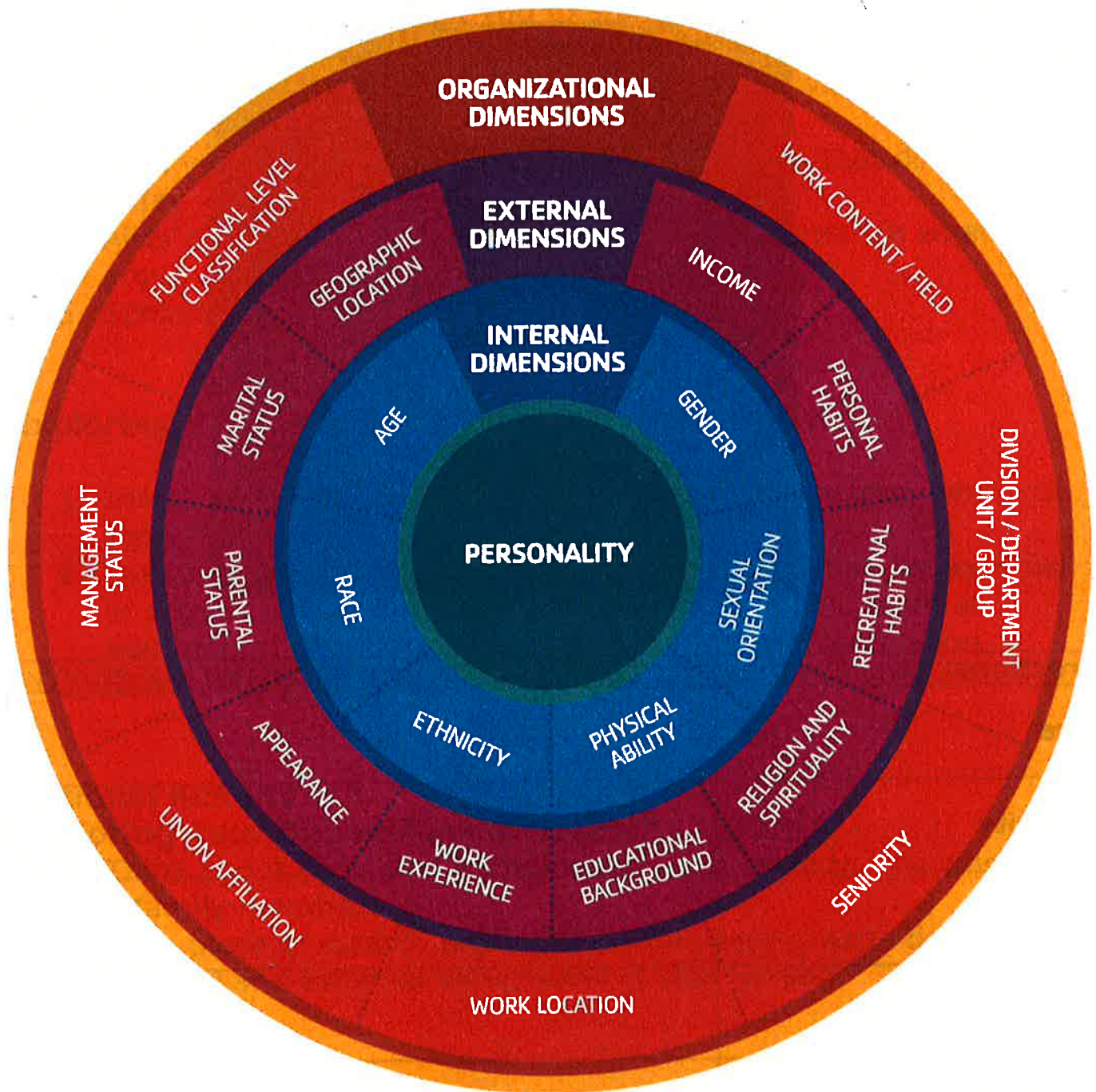


Diversity Wheel

Created by Marilyn Loden

Who are YOU in the world? What factors shape YOU?

The Diversity Wheel represents experiences and intersections that contribute to make you, YOU.





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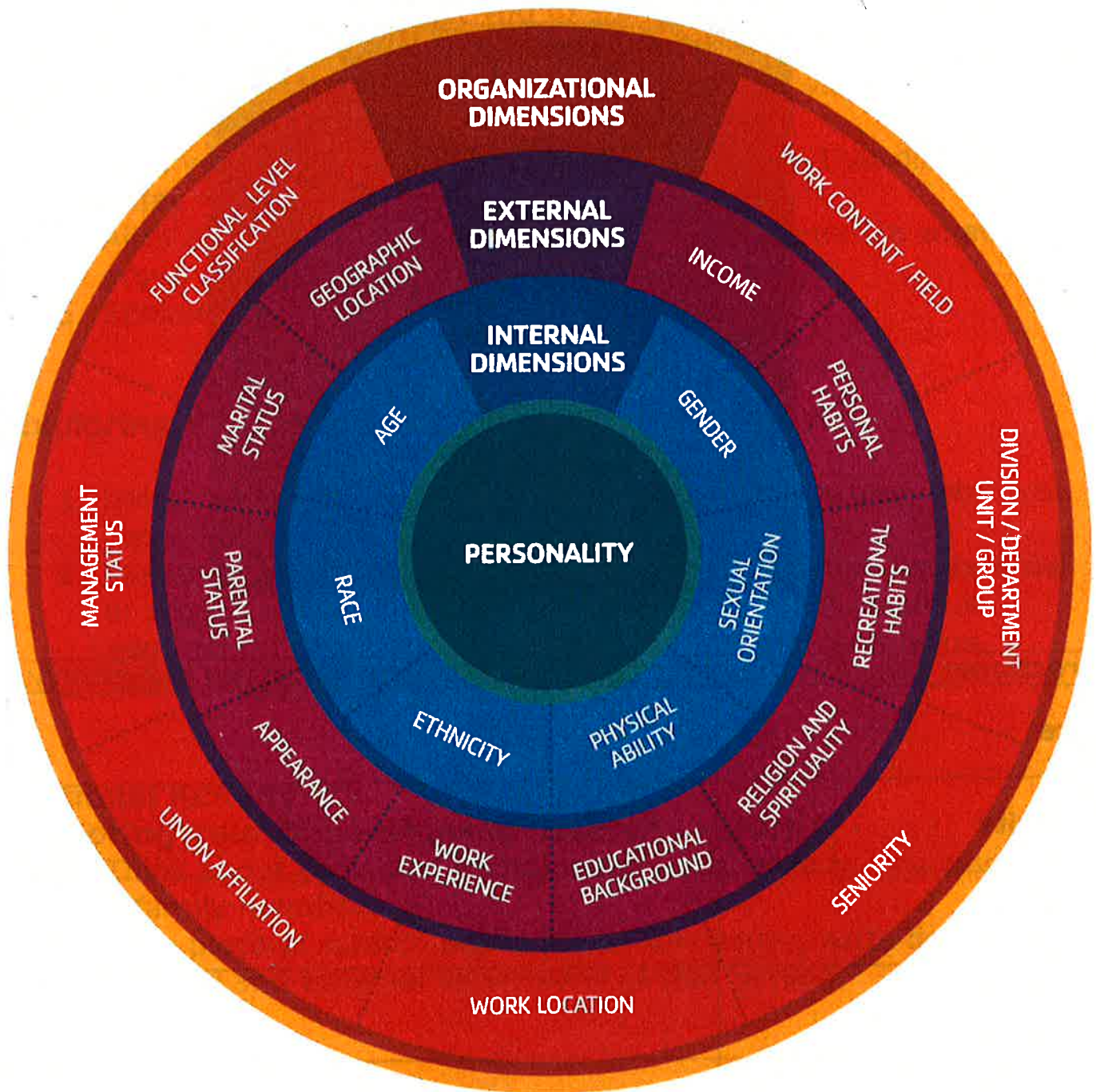


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Naming traditions from around the world

Latin-American traditions

When a child is born, traditionally, she or he has one or two given names followed by two surnames. The second given name is many times chosen to honor some close friend or family member, typically, a grandfather or grandmother.

Most **Latin-American** people (other than Argentines) have two surnames; the first inherited from the father and the second from the mother.

Take for example the famous writer Gabriel García Márquez (full name: Gabriel José de la Concordia García Márquez).

His parents were Gabriel Eligio García and Luisa Santiaga Márquez Iguarán , so his two surnames are Garcia and Marquez.

The first surname – father’s surname – is commonly used when addressing somebody. One surname will be used when speaking with a person and both surnames will be used when writing to a person. Gabriel Garcia Marquez would be addressed as Señor Marquez.

Argentina

In the past, married women had to take their husband's' name but the law changed and now they're free to continue using their maiden name and have the option to add his name to hers. The full name of a married woman would be (given name) (maiden name) de (husband's name); thus, my full name is Ana Karina Astri de O'Reilly. The preposition “de” means “of” as is “I belong to my husband”.

Irish -- Irish first born sons are named after their paternal grandfather. First born daughters are named after their maternal grandmother. And then second born sons are named after their maternal grandfather and second born daughters are named after their paternal grandmother.

Hawaiian -- Native Hawaiians believe a baby's name is passed down by God in a dream or vision. In the event that a name is not passed down, the child is given two names. The first is the one they tell others about and the other is kept secret to make sure it's not heard by evil spirits.

What makes **Russian** names different is that the middle name is derived from the father's first name.

Take for example the writer, Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky. His parents were Mikhail and Maria Dostoevsky. The writer's first name is Fyodor and his surname is Dostoevsky. His middle name is based on the root Mikhail, his father's name.

Another Russian writer is Lev Nikolayevich Tolstoy. His wife's name was Sofia Andreevna Tolstaya.

Russian women take their husband's' names, but they'll add an "a" to the end of the surname. So, Tolstoy's wife's surname was Tolstaya.

In the **Philippines and in Brazilian** traditions, parents give their children the Mother's Maiden name as the middle name and the Father's Last name as the child's last name as well.

Devout Catholics would customarily give children the name of the patron saint of the day of their birth. For example if you were born on Valentine's Day, your name would be Valentín (boy) or Valentina (girl).

A Jewish boy is given his Hebrew name at his "Bris" eight days after his birth, at which time he is also circumcised. A Jewish baby girl receives a naming ceremony eight to fifteen days after birth that includes a public reading of the Torah. Israelis will not reveal their chosen name for the baby before birth, and will typically not share it with anyone. They will also not name their child after a living person (even if they'd like to honor them), but will sometimes choose to honor a dead relative or religious figure. In addition, Israelis don't typically give their kids a second name, just a first name and the father's last name.

Naming trends

Traditionally, a woman took the husband's last name, and her "maiden" name usually didn't appear anymore. Things are changing though. Many women elect to hyphenate their last name (ie Jane Doe marries John Smith, and changes her name to Jane Doe-Smith, instead of Jane Smith). My mother never changed her name at all. Some people thought that was weird, but it was always normal to us growing up.

Middle names can also be a family tradition. The name James is the middle name of the first-born sons on the Oliver (father's) side of my family going back a long time. My middle name is James, my dad's middle name is James, my grandpa's middle name is James...

One interesting trend is the "**last name first name**" phenomenon. It used to be a way for rich families to pay homage to the mother's' side. Since in the US the mother's "maiden" name is not typically a part of the children's last name at all, they would name the child (as a first name) Vanderbilt, Kennedy, or Rockwell, for example.