

Do You See Me?
*The Importance of Pronouncing
Student Names Correctly*

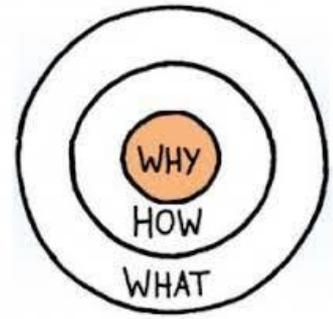
Wednesday, November 9, 2022
7:00-8:00 p.m. ET

Presented by:

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Wafa' Safi-Hassan, NEA Teaching & Policy Fellow, IN
**Ambereen Khan-Baker, NEA Sr. Policy/Program
Specialist/Analyst**



Why are we here?



- Pronouncing a student's name correctly is important
- The importance of pronouncing a student's name correctly is often overlooked
- In this session we will discuss:
 - the importance of pronouncing a student's name properly
 - the impact it can have on a student throughout their life
 - strategies and techniques to master how to say names properly

Our time together

1. Welcome & Intros
2. Why?
3. How?
4. Reflection



Activator

In the chat box, share:

- your name
- how to pronounce your name
- the origin of or a story behind your name



Our names...

Yahaira Rodriguez

- Paraeducator
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Our names...

Wafa' Safi-Hassan

- Teaching and Policy Fellow
- HS Science Teacher
- Indiana
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Our names...

Ambereen Khan-Baker, NBCT

- NEA Senior Policy/Program Specialist/Analyst
- akhanbaker@nea.org



What some students say..



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C7it5CLU2tU>

What the research says...

When we mispronounce students' names, especially, you know, in the K-12 education system, children feel typically report:

- Feeling really, really ashamed/not enough
- A sense of not belonging
- Not feeling psychologically safe
- They start shutting down when it comes to their identity
- Feeling more shame about their culture.

Connecting to Culture/Family

- Our names are an incredibly important part of our identity.
- They carry deep personal, cultural, familial, and historical connections.
- They also give us a sense of who we are, the communities in which we belong, and our place in the world.
- Our name and the right pronunciation connect us to our memories with our families, community and friends.



Importance of Pronouns

- Shows respect
- Creates safe and welcoming environments
- Fosters opportunities to build connections



Strategies: How we try to pronounce our students' names?



Strategies: How we try to pronounce our students' names?

Share in the chat box:

- Have you tried any of the strategies we mentioned? What was the outcome?
- Are there any other strategies you've tried? How did it go?



What NOT to do...

- Not attempt to say students' names
- Make comments about how difficult it is to pronounce names
- Create nicknames
- Make jokes
- Give up!



Exit Activity



3

Things I learned today

2

Ways I will use or apply what I've learned

1

Question I still have

Share in chatbox

Additional Resources

NEA Resources

- [Why Pronouncing Students' Names Correctly is So Important](#)
- [The Lasting Impact of Mispronouncing Students' Names](#)
- [Why Pronouns Matter](#)
- [Pronoun Guide](#)

Other Resources

- [Name Mispronunciations – Students' Opinions \(YouTube video\)](#)
- [My Name, My Identity](#)
- [Why a Mispronounced Name Can Be So Frustrating](#)

