

HELLO  
my name is

## Assignment #2

### Photomontage: *What's In A Name?*

Create a digital photomontage representing your name and identity. A chance to redefine yourself.

In this assignment you will create a photomontage depicting the various ways your first and/or last name can be interpreted. You can draw on your own past experiences or even common conceptions of what your name means to others. You should start by probing the Internet for imagery related to your name and its meanings, but feel free to consult other sources for imagery as well. The point is to **analyze** your own name and **assess** its meaning by creating a visual representation of your identity. Will the visual representation tell a different story than just your name alone? Will it create a new meaning?

Excerpt from Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet*:

(Juliet)

'Tis but thy name that is my enemy;--  
Thou art thyself, though not a Montague.  
What's Montague? It is nor hand, nor foot,  
Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part  
Belonging to a man. O, be some other name!  
**What's in a name?** that which we call a rose  
By any other name would smell as sweet;  
So Romeo would, were he not Romeo call'd,  
Retain that dear perfection which he owes  
Without that title:--Romeo, doff thy name;  
And for that name, which is no part of thee,  
Take all myself.



Do you remember Juliet's critical inquiry about the significance of Romeo's last name, Montague? She was criticizing the fact that people are judged by names that are assigned to them before they're even able to speak for themselves! In this sense names can be both telling and confining- and ultimately oppressive.

What does your name mean to you?

Have you ever been in a situation where someone has used your name to determine something about your heritage, your class, or even your personality?

What are the different interpretations of your name?

## Part A – The Meaning of Your Name? Finding Related Imagery

- Where does your last name come from? What is it derived from?
- Is there an actual translation of your last name? What does that mean?
- Are there other notable people that share either of your names?
- Is there a story behind your first name?

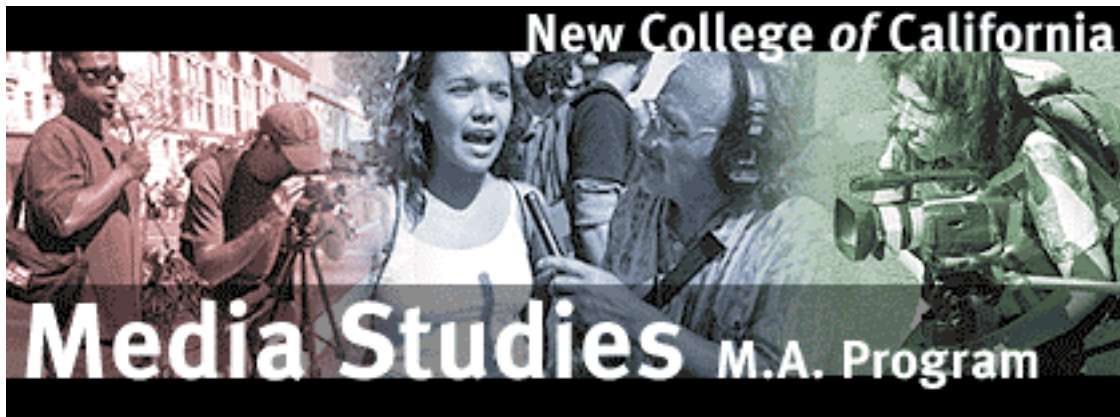
## Part B – Visualizing and Designing your own identity

- What new imagery would you like associated with your name?
- What doesn't your name tell us about you?
- How can your interests depict your identity?
- Do you have a nickname? What sorts of imagery does it suggest?
- What colors and/or textures represent you?

If we were to take your name out of this montage would it represent you?

Your assignment will be graded on how well you use found imagery to communicate the meaning(s) of your name. You are encouraged to use images found on the web, though you should also feel free to incorporate any other images you may find elsewhere (e.g. – magazines, photos, family photos, etc.). You must use at least 7 images total in your photomontage.

Random Example: Montage for Media Studies Program @ New College...



Could we still understand the meaning of this image if there were no titles?