**MY NAME**

"What’s in a name? That which we call a rose / By any other name would smell as sweet."

*Romeo & Juliet*

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me."  
 *The Christian Recorder, 1862*

"A good name is better than riches."  
 *Proverbs 22:1, KJV*

There are lots of sayings about names, and most of them are, at best, only partially true. In this assignment, you will investigate the meanings and origins of your name(s) in order to establish your own personal history and to explore cultural significance of naming traditions. You will begin by writing down everything they know about your own name(s). Next, you will use an online tool to research your name and meanings associated with it. Finally, you will write about your name, using a passage from Sandra Cisneros’ *The House on Mango Street* as a model. I will read the passage in class from *The House on Mango Street* to give you more of a sense of what I am looking for (it is below, too). **Must be ¾ to 1 page, minimum. Be neat and creative! Worth 25 points and due Tuesday, August 23rd. If you type it (preferred), double spaced and 12 point regular font.**

*My Name*

*In English my name means hope. In Spanish it means too many letters. It means sadness, it means waiting. It is like the number nine. A muddy color. It is the Mexican records my father plays on Sunday mornings when he is shaving, songs like sobbing.*

*It was my great-grandmother's name and now it is mine. She was a horse woman too, born like me in the Chinese year of the horse--which is supposed to be bad luck if you're born female-but I think this is a Chinese lie because the Chinese, like the Mexicans, don't like their women strong.*

*My great-grandmother. I would've liked to have known her, a wild, horse of a woman, so wild she wouldn't marry. Until my great-grandfather threw a sack over her head and carried her off. Just like that, as if she were a fancy chandelier. That's the way he did it.*

*And the story goes she never forgave him. She looked out the window her whole life, the way so many women sit their sadness on an elbow. I wonder if she made the best with what she got or was she sorry because she couldn't be all the things she wanted to be. Esperanza. I have inherited her name, but I don't want to inherit her place by the window.*

*At school they say my name funny as if the syllables were made out of tin and hurt the roof of your mouth. But in Spanish my name is made out of a softer something, like silver, not quite as thick as sister's name Magdalena--which is uglier than mine. Magdalena who at least- -can come home and become Nenny. But I am always Esperanza. I would like to baptize myself under a new name, a name more like the real me, the one nobody sees. Esperanza as Lisandra or Maritza or Zeze the X. Yes. Something like Zeze the X will do.*