

What's in a Name: Creating a Supportive Environment in the Classroom for

Example:

Kate Levin

Pronouns: she, her, hers

Assistant Director of Sports Information

Helpful information can also be found at [Pronouns Matter](#)

In the beginning of the semester, you can ask students to fill out a basic information card that includes their names and gender pronouns if they wish (note: not all students are comfortable sharing their gender pronouns). You can then customize your own records (paper, electronic, etc.) so that students are properly represented.

When introducing yourself to the class, you can say who you are, share your pronouns, as well as what you would like to be called. In addition, work to address students by their names and not general gendered language such as "ladies and gentlemen" or "guys" or gendered titles (Ms, Miss, Mrs, Mr.). You can model using gender inclusive titles such as "Mx."

If you make a mistake, apologize and move on! Importantly, highlight awareness of a mistake and do not dwell there. This is an ongoing effort.

For further information on Name and Gender Pronouns, Gender Inclusive language and education, or the Name Committee, please contact:

Marie-Danielle Attis, Assistant Director, Center for Student Involvement ([mattissp@ramapo.edu](mailto:mattissp@ramapo.edu))

Dr. Rick Brown, Director, Center for Student Involvement ([rbrown2@ramapo.edu](mailto:rbrown2@ramapo.edu))

Dr. Emily Leskinen, Associate Professor of Social Science ([elaskine@ramapo.edu](mailto:elaskine@ramapo.edu))

Dr. Maya Poran, Associate Professor of Psychology ([mporan@ramapo.edu](mailto:mporan@ramapo.edu))

Melissa Van Der Wall, Dean of Students ([mvanderw@ramapo.edu](mailto:mvanderw@ramapo.edu))

Dr. Leah Warner, Professor of Social Psychology ([lwarn@ramapo.edu](mailto:lwarn@ramapo.edu))

Sam Wittenberg, System and Web Development Librarian ([switten1@ramapo](mailto:switten1@ramapo.edu))