

Deniyah Slaughter

Com 101/ Socio 101

Name speech outline

I. Introduction

a. “Names are the sweetest and most important sound in any language”, Dale Carnegie.

b. Your name is the definition of you. What your character is like, what you like, what you want to be in life, what you’ve already accomplished in life and more is all in your name. A name is like the title of a book and the book is the person characteristics and their life experiences.

c. As someone who has been judged and put into stereotypes based off of my name, I know that no one can define someone’s name, but the person the name belongs to.

d. My name is Deniyah Ashanti Slaughter and I define my own name based off of who I am. My name symbolizes me, a strong, intelligent, open-minded African American woman.

e. In this speech we will discussed why I have the name I have. Next I will explain what my names means; finally I will reveal what my name symbolizes.

Transition: First let’s begin with why I am named Deniyah Ashanti Slaughter.

II. Body

a. The reason I was named this is to be unique and to build my own character.

i. The story behind my first name is kind of funny. My siblings and I were all named after my father. The beginning of our first names correlates with the beginning of his name and his nickname. While my mother was pregnant with me, my father always said that she

was in denial so at first my name was really close to being Denial, which is kind of funny. Surprising my mother liked that name but felt that it should be more feminine. Adding on to his joke, she thought of Deniyah. Instead of spelling it like “Deniya” she added a “h” to the end of my name because she felt it looked incomplete without it. That is how I got my first name. Growing up I always felt my name was unique, there was never another person with the same name as me and for a while I believed I was the only person with this name. Because my name was so uncommon it was always mispronounced. I would always correct people when I was younger but once I got older, I just let it be.

ii. I was born in the early 2000s and around that time there was a very popular singer out, Ashanti. My mother loved Ashanti at the time. She was being played everywhere from the car radio to the stores and especially at home. My mother believe that Ashanti is a beautiful and she was her favorite singer at the time, so she gave me the middle name Ashanti.

iii. My last name is from my father. Growing up in school people would often make fun of my last name. They would say rude things like, “you’re a killer, don’t make her mad she might hurt you”, or ask “so, do you slaughter pigs for a living?” It would only affect me a small percentage because at a young age I was taught by my father that my last name was not a bad thing. He would tell me that my last name meant that I am strong and unique. Being young and not having a common last name in school made people curious but I feel they expressed it in the wrong way, by making those unkind remarks. Since my last name was so uncommon people would often think or ask if I was related to another people with my last name, I wasn’t. I grew to love my last name, now that I am older, I realize that there are a lot of people with the same last name as me once I was exposed to larger groups of people.

Transition: now that we have discussed why I was named this, let's move on to what my name means.

b. The internet can't always define your name. When I was in elementary and middle school it was common to look up what your name meant on the internet. At the time I couldn't find out much about it because I was apart of the exceptionally small group of people that was named Deniyah in the early 2000s. However, my middle and last name is popular.

i. According to Seven Reflections Deniyah mean, "you are strong in material matters, determined and stubborn. You have good business ability. You are a good worker, steady and practical, a builder who takes responsibility well... Creative and outgoing, you are always looking for an opportunity to show your abilities, especially before audience" (2020). I always take meanings like so with a grain of salt because I believe I am my own person. People create the meanings of names and concepts like zodiac signs to be basic, so that it can describe a large range of people. I don't believe it is possible to describe what the meaning of my name is and what I am like without meeting me. Everyone is different and have unique aspects about themselves that a general definition of a name can't describe.

ii. According to Merriam-Webster the definition of Ashanti is, "a member of a people of southern Ghana" or "the dialect of Akan spoken by the Ashanti people" (2020). Ashanti has a more cultural meaning than I expected, this is a culture of people who speak their own language. "The Ashanti (or Asante), are the dominant ethnic group of a powerful 19th-century empire and today one of Ghana's leading ethnic groups, with more than two million members concentrated in south central Ghana" (pbs 2020). The name Ashanti is of African

descent and is a large populated culture. This is amazing to have the name of such wonderful people in Ghana.

iii. As mentioned before I struggled with my last name growing up, but I never felt ashamed of it. According to Ancestry the Slaughter name meaning is, “occupational name for a slaughterer of animals, from Middle English slahter (an agent derivative of slaht ‘killing’)” (2013). Somewhere in history my ancestors must have been in this field of occupation to get this name and for it to pass down generations. In that type of business, you have to be hardworking so, to have the last name Slaughter isn’t something I am ashamed of.

Transition: Now let’s finish off on what my name symbolizes according to the internet.

C. Everyone has a name and it symbolizes who they are. When you think about it, if someone does something funny, weird or mean when you meet them that will stick to you. Now when you see that person or hear their name it will symbolize something funny, weird, or mean to you. Every person is a symbol. For example, for some people parents can be a big symbol in their life. When they think about their parents it symbolizes their childhood and how they were raised or loved.

i. People who have never met me could assume that I am responsible, creative and outgoing, just by using the definition of my first name. People could believe that I am African or have some type of relation to the people of Ghana. They could perhaps assume that my ancestors are slaughterers of animals. These reactions are similar but their knowledge change once they see me and get to know me.

ii. My middle name Ashanti, carries a big symbolism of the people of the Ashanti culture. Not only is it the name of their culture, but it is also the tongue they speak in, meaning the language they use to communicate. They have their own values and symbolism of concepts in their culture as well as how they communicate with each other. They are populated with more than two million people in south of Ghana.

iii. The life experiences of others can affect how someone may perceive my name. They may have experienced a positive or negative social force in their life that can make them have a set assumption on others with the same or similar name. I have been through different social forces in my life where I am judged based off of my name. Some of these social forces helped shape my identity throughout but taught me that I do not have to fit inside someone's standard.

Transition: let's recap what we've spoken about today.

III. Conclusion

Overall, the definition of a name is never complete. Individuals go through social forces their entire life, adding to the definition of their name. My name is Deniyah Ashanti Slaughter and so far, my name means that I am a strong, intelligent, open-minded person. The reason I have my name is to be unique and to build my own character. The internet can't always define your name. Everyone has a name and symbolizes something. Only you can define your name through your social forces in life and your characteristics. Your own life creates what your name symbolizes it is not always what the internet says, no one else can change that or tell you what is meant by your name.

Work Cited

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