

# GPAWP 2003

## WRITING #1- MY NAME, MY SELF

DUE: Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Four copies for your writing group

For your first piece of writing, please do the following as honestly and care-fully (full of care) as you can:

**Think about your name (first, middle, last, nickname, given name, or name acquired by marriage, etc.) What does your name mean to you? To others? How are you a reflection of your name? Do you like your name? Does your name link you to others in your family, clan? Have you lived with an unusual name or one that is frequently mispronounced or misspelled?**

◆Working with the material generated in your journal, write a short piece about your name. You may choose any format you wish--poetry or narrative prose. The only rule is *your poem may not rhyme* (and please, no acrostics).

◆Audience: Your writing group and the GPAWP community.

◆Purpose: To tell a little bit about yourself by exploring the significance of your name.

### SOME HINTS AND SUGGESTIONS

-Give your piece a title (but wait until you have finished to title it).

-Take care to include specific details that show your feelings, reflections, pain, blessings, etc. Feel free to experiment.

-Experiment with your name as a "symbol" of your sense of self. Think about the generations who came before you. Do you feel the physical presence of other people in your name?

-Think about the models that we looked at. What is it specifically that is shown, not told, that affects the audience so strongly?

-Most importantly, take your time with this. Allow yourself this moment and let it take you where you want to go. Then, when you feel you have said all you want or can say, rest your pen. Then go back and make changes, add or fix what you need. Do this as many times as you need until it says what you want it to say.