

# **Pseudonym Portfolio Assignment**

*Pseudonym (fake name) – a fictitious name used to conceal one's identity*

## **Part I. Create your own pseudonym.**

You can have one name (Jay-Z, Madonna) or a full name (Phoebe Weatherfield).

Places to find names:

- the phone book
- the internet
- Ms.McMane's website (links to lots of name sites)
- a role model, family member, or celebrity you'd like to emulate [be like]

## **Part II. Explain in detail why you have chosen this name:**

- What does it literally mean (denotation)?
- What do you think of when you hear it (connotation)?  
For example, the name Gladys literally means "princess," but it may make you think of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Why did you choose it?

SAMPLE:

“Hey, Princess,” my mom would say sarcastically when I was little, alluding to the meaning of my first name, “Sarah.” I am hardly a princess. It does not suit me in meaning, as I am hardly one to prance around in prissy satin dresses and I’ve never been a “Disney girl.” I’ll take Harry Potter any day over Cinderella. However, I do like the old-fashioned nature of my classic name. If I were to pick a new name for myself, it would be something similarly old-fashioned, perhaps Elizabeth, which literally means “oath of God.” This, too, does not describe me, but the connotation is something vintage, sweet, kind, and lovely, yet with an air of nobility—someone to be reckoned with, like Queen Elizabeth – a woman with lasting power.

As for my last name, I might take the name of a favorite writer or mentor, but “Plath” as in poet Sylvia Plath does not have a nice sound to it. It sounds like something at the bottom of a pond – algae. I think I would choose “Merchant” after one of my favorite singers, Natalie Merchant, formerly of the 80’s band 10,000 Maniacs. She is talented and outspoken, two things I strive to be. Elizabeth Merchant sounds like a smart, classic, strong woman, the kind of woman I want to be.

## **Part III. Upload it to turnitin.com**

After you complete your portfolio response, upload it to turnitin.com. Then make sure you bring your pseudonym to class (Shhhh! Don’t tell anyone!) so we can play a game trying to identify everyone by their fake names!