

Since my college application process began this summer I have met people who ask me my class rank, my GPA, and my standardized test scores before even asking my name. It is as if they qualify everything as a competition and that these statistics will prove me worthy or not. In reality, I never want to share these things with people. While I am proud of my accomplishments I do not think these things add up to the story I want to share about myself. Instead, my name, *Erika Rocio Cabrera*, tells more about who I am.

Erika

Erika is my first name because my biological father made the decision. His first child's name is also Erika, and he thought I would be his last child, so he named me Erika too. It was his nice way to bookend his nine kids. It failed, as he had ended up having another child three months after me. In this way my name is a constant reminder of my father, yet we lost contact over nine years ago and obviously I do not mean much to him. This motivates me though, to make sure I make a positive impression and impact on others throughout my life.

Rocio

My middle name, Rocio, is my mother's first name and she means the world to me. She is one of the main reasons why I set high goals for myself and aspire to be the best I can be. When things feel challenging, and in addition to my own desire to persevere, my mother is my motivation to push forward. I am honored to share my mother's name and to always carry that part of her with me. I even borrow and wear her necklace with her name on it at times. It is a daily testament to remind me that all I do affects not only me, but also my mother.

Cabrera

Cabrera is also the last name of the only sibling I live with, my older brother Bryan. It reminds me that I am his little sister, but often act as the more mature and responsible sibling. As opposed to my introverted and shy brother, I am very outspoken and often take a stand on his behalf. While he is currently taking courses in a local community college I have always been the higher achieving student. As a result, I often hear "Erika, you cannot mess up. You may be the first of the Cabrera family to graduate from a decent college and make it big!" How can I ever let my family or our name down?

Of the three names I have, none is unique to only me. I am okay with that because I rarely focus on myself and often shy away from speaking about my personal accomplishments. I prefer to remain humble and celebrate others, although I do take deep pride in what I have achieved thus far. However, I am more than test scores and my class rank. I am *Erika*, who seeks to make a positive impact in this world; *Rocio*, who is motivated to excel at everything I do; and *Cabrera*, who takes responsibility seriously and leads by example. This is what makes me *Erika Rocio Cabrera*.