

Name _____ Date _____

The Politics of Place-Naming

DAY/SESSION 1

Part 1. Read the provided handout “Naming Streets for Martin Luther King, Jr.: No Easy Road” (Alderman 2006). Then answer the questions below.

1. Investigate Figure 11.2 (p. 218 of the Alderman Chapter). What size community hosts the majority of streets named for King? Why? _____

2. What type of groups typically initiate campaigns to name streets for King? Why?

3. Consider the Brent, Alabama, example (p. 225). Should it matter where the named street is located so long as Martin Luther King, Jr. is commemorated? _____

DAY/SESSION 2

Part 2. Based on the map Comparing Street Names and Demographic Data (both layers on), answer the questions below.

1. An orange point indicates an area that has a street named after Martin Luther King, Jr. Is there a pattern for MLK-named streets? If so, what reason(s) account for that pattern? _____

The Politics of Place-Naming, continued

2. Do you think that MLK-named streets are randomly located or are they purposefully located in specific neighborhoods? What data would you need to investigate this question? _____

3. Why do you think re-naming a street after King is sometimes difficult? Can you think of any other historic or contemporary person that should be honored with a street name? Would other people agree with your choice? _____
