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## **The Impact of French on Career Planning**

### **Presentation Focus:**

Based on your specific interests and practical needs, we will examine some ongoing challenges to the study of French, and we will entertain responsive strategies that seek to assist teachers as they communicate with students, parents, school counselors and other members of the school community to promote the importance of studying French.

The literature suggests two distinct “motivations” that may influence students to begin or continue the study of second language and French in particular:

**1. Intrinsic or integrative motivation** – the learner develops a deep appreciation and respect for the language and culture with a view towards learning the language in order to become a functioning member of that culture.

- Cultural intelligence and global awareness
- More expansive intellectual and human development
- Enrichment of educational experience through interdisciplinary study (Waldorf Model)

**2. Instrumental motivation** – the learner is more focused on practical and expedient advantages that may flow from studying the language

- Graduation and college entrance requirements
- Career planning advantages

### **3. Activities for Teachers to Help Students Understand the Advantages of Studying French**

- ***Teachers can work with counselors*** to inform and assist the process of student curriculum planning. Invite counselors to one of your department meetings or ask to attend one of their monthly meetings. Invite counselors to visit your classes to see “what is really going on”. Use these opportunities and the resources listed below to “educate” and familiarize the counselors with salient, appropriate information about French. You might do a team-presentation with a counselor during which each of you can point out the specific educational and career planning benefits of achieving a high level of competence in French. Counselors can address not only the role of French as a second language requirement for gaining entrance to a competitive college but also the “career toolkit” advantages of competency in French. Speak about junior year abroad programs during college as the route to fluency.

- *Teachers can work with local university French departments* to invite current undergraduate or graduate students majoring in French into their classes. These students can demonstrate how French is at the core of their educational experience and how it will enhance their career success. They can speak to the value of a junior year abroad experience and show how mastery of French is leading to employment or an enrichment of their career potential.
- *Teachers can invite into their classes adult professionals* who are currently using French in connection with their jobs. They can make a career presentation demonstrating how and why they gained a mastery of French and provide successful and motivating role models for your students.

## RESOURCES

<http://www.utm.edu/staff/globeg/advofr.shtml> - Ideas for French Language & Culture Advocacy in the US *Official Web Site of the AATF Commission on Advocacy*

<http://www.fl.vt.edu/french/whyfrench.html> - French: The Most practical Foreign Language. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Richard Shryock

<http://www.utm.edu/staff/globeg/profren.shtml> - “On the Importance of Knowing French” Tennessee Bob Peckham, Director, the Globe-Gate Project [Department of Modern Foreign Languages](#), University of Tennessee-Martin

[http://french.about.com/od/whylearnfrench/Why\\_learn\\_French.htm](http://french.about.com/od/whylearnfrench/Why_learn_French.htm) - Why Learn French?

<http://french.about.com/library/weekly/aa120800.htm> - Jobs Using French

[http://french.about.com/od/employment/French\\_Employment\\_Careers\\_Jobs\\_French\\_at\\_Work.htm](http://french.about.com/od/employment/French_Employment_Careers_Jobs_French_at_Work.htm) - French Employment, Careers, Jobs; French at work

<http://www.monster.com/> - enter French Language and view jobs where French is required or a major asset to get the job

<http://www.careerbuilder.com> - enter French Language and view jobs where French is required or a major asset to get the job

<http://www.multilingualvacancies.com/vacancies/french-language-jobs.php> - French Language Jobs

<http://www.wm.edu/modlang/french/careers.php#veronica> – French at William and Mary

