

## More Than Just A Foreign Language

Language is magical. It influences the way we think, connect, and experience the world. The first language, aside from my native English, that I began learning was French, and it has changed me for the better.

My increasing proficiency in French has enabled me to engage in French media and expand my personal tastes. I have discovered I prefer French rap to its English counterpart, and that French Netflix has some truly horrible soap operas. Reading *Le Petit Prince* in French was incredible; the story came alive when it was unburdened by the inherent imprecision of translation. French has allowed me to discover new media that I never knew I was missing, but that has now influenced me as much as my favorite English TV shows.

Learning new languages changed the way I think. In an introductory German course, I learned the word “verschlimmbessern,” which means “to make something worse by trying to make it better.” Now that German has given me a name for this, I recognize it in my life, where before I was oblivious. My language studies have enabled me to describe my ideas more precisely, and recognize concepts I hadn’t noticed before.

I love that language is ever-evolving, and that it can even change from person to person, reflecting those who speak it. My mom and sister have also studied French, and we speak it together around the house. It’s not perfect, but it is our own version of French, a unique way for just the three of us to communicate and connect.

My study of foreign languages has provided me with a combination of intellectual challenge, cultural exploration, and human connection. It has changed the way I express myself, and allowed me to see the world in a new light.