



# Qu'est-ce qu'il faut faire pour attirer l'intérêt de nos étudiants?

It can be difficult for teachers to convince their students of the value that comes with learning French as a second language. This can be due to failing to see the relevancy of learning such a language, especially for students who do not interact with it daily or perhaps because our students interact with other languages they feel are more relevant to their lives. We have compiled this list of tips that are sure to help you encourage your students to appreciate FSL education!

## 1. Discussions on Linguistic Insecurity and Linguistic Diversity

Self-esteem has long since been considered not only a motivator in the FSL classroom, but a human need as well (McLeod, 2018). Certain sounds in the French language can be quite difficult for students to master, regardless of their competency levels, and attempting to pronounce these sounds can leave students feeling embarrassed in front of their peers. One way to address this is by ensuring your classroom is a safe environment in which the students feel at ease to practice and make mistakes. Activities that touch on different accents and varieties of French are one way of helping to make your students less self-conscious when speaking French, as it can show them just how diverse French can be within the Francophonie. It can also encourage them to reflect on why people speak differently and why it's important to respect and appreciate accents of all kinds. This will not only help them feel at ease as they navigate learning French, but also help them to better respect the accents and varieties of all languages.

Quick reference:

CPF (Canadian Parents for French). Building Linguistic Security. 2020.

[https://cpf.ca/wp-content/uploads/CPF\\_2020\\_LinguisticSecurityBrief\\_EN\\_v9\\_EMAIL-1.pdf](https://cpf.ca/wp-content/uploads/CPF_2020_LinguisticSecurityBrief_EN_v9_EMAIL-1.pdf)

Academic reads:

McLeod, S. (2018). Maslow's hierarchy of needs. *Simply psychology* 1.1-18

<https://canadacollege.edu/dreamers/docs/Maslows-Hierarchy-of-Needs.pdf>

Roy, S. (2010). Not Truly, Not Entirely ... Pas comme les Francophones. *Canadian Journal of Education*, 33(3), 541-563. Retrieved from

<http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ910872.pdf>



## 2. Promoting all languages in the classroom

When learning French, it is helpful to make connections where possible to languages we already speak. Unfortunately, despite a growing literature of the advantages to multilingual/translingual pedagogy, FSL classrooms tend to better accommodate speakers of English. This has led to the marginalization of minority groups in FSL classrooms, as their linguistic repertoires and life experiences oftentimes go unacknowledged, unaccommodated and under appreciated. Canada has such beautiful multiculturalism and this needs to be taken advantage of in the FSL classroom. This will further benefit students who are also learning English as a second language, or a heritage language, as it would promote metalinguistic awareness. It further forces both our teachers and students to reflect on and value their own linguistic and cultural identities. Such processes are essential to decolonizing the FSL classroom in the post-colonial Canadian context. By creating an environment in which the diverse life experiences and identities of all students can be respected and reaffirmed, teachers will ensure their students can create meaningful connections with the content they're learning. An example of this could be allowing students to translate French concepts into their own languages, or other languages that they are learning, rather than always defaulting to English-French classroom practices.

Quick reference:

5 Ways Teachers Can Create a Translanguaging Classroom

<https://www.little-sponges.com/index.php/2018/05/10/5-ways-teachers-can-create-translanguaging-classroom/>

Hamman, L., Beck, E. & A. Donaldson. (2018). *A Pedagogy of Translanguaging*. *Language Magazine*.  
<https://www.languagemagazine.com/2018/09/10/a-pedagogy-of-translanguaging/>

Rio, A. (2020). Language learning in Canada needs to change to reflect 'superdiverse' communities. *The Conversation*.  
<https://theconversation.com/language-learning-in-canada-needs-to-change-to-reflect-superdiverse-communities-144037>

Academic reads:

de los Ríos, Cati V., and Kate Seltzer. "Translanguaging, Coloniality, and English Classrooms: An Exploration of Two Bicoastal Urban Classrooms." *Research in the Teaching of English*, vol. 52, no. 1, National Council of Teachers of English, 2017, pp. 55–76, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/44821287>.



### 3. Remind them of Personally and Practically Enriching Factors

Learning a new language comes with many practical benefits that can enrich our students' futures. For those students who are interested in studying abroad, French is the official language in 29 countries! For those students who are already eager to secure a good career, bilingualism is a great asset to have when applying for jobs that may even give them access to higher wages. But there are also many personally enriching benefits to learning French as a second language. Being such a widely spoken language, familiarity with French can truly open up so many doors for our students. Just think of how much information you're exposed to everyday while scrolling through the internet: memes, videos, blogs, articles, music, tv shows, movies, games... Now imagine all of that information DOUBLED! By learning French, our students are giving themselves access to information they may have never encountered otherwise. Finally, French is amazing to learn because it can make our lives more fun! When you speak another language, it becomes far easier to meet new people and truly open yourself up to the world and different perspectives. Not to mention, learning French can help with neurological stimulation, which can even delay the onset of illnesses such as dementia or Alzheimers. These benefits can be easily demonstrated in the classroom through the use of activities that involve French media, pen pal activities, etc. Moreover, teachers should discuss fun opportunities that are available to Canadian French students, such as the Explore and Destination Clic programs or cultural/academic exchanges, if such experiences are offered by the school. By reminding our students of the diverse benefits of learning French, the more opportunities they'll have to truly connect the language to their own lives and their future goals.

Quick reference:

The top 8 reasons to learn French.

<https://www.nsnews.com/standout/the-top-8-reasons-to-learn-french-3041039>

Roy, M. (2019). Ten good reasons to learn French. *The Our Languages blog*.

[https://www.noslangues-ourlanguages.gc.ca/en/blogue-blog/10\\_raisons\\_reasons\\_nouvelle\\_langue\\_new\\_language-eng](https://www.noslangues-ourlanguages.gc.ca/en/blogue-blog/10_raisons_reasons_nouvelle_langue_new_language-eng)

France Diplomacy: 10 good reasons to learn French.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/studying-in-france/learning-french/article/10-good-reasons-for-learning>

