

Monsieur Fitz's AP French Summer Assignment 2009

Your goal in the summer assignment is to keep your French fresh through at least 8 30-minute mini-lessons, as well as at least four 30-minute conversations with a partner. That's 6 hours total for those who are counting. This assignment will be most useful if you do a lesson per week, besides vacation time, so perhaps two lessons the week before or after you get back if you don't have internet access or a book or magazine to read. **You are encouraged to work more than this**, but this is the minimum requirement. The more work you do over the summer, the stronger your French will be when you return, and the better chance you'll have on the AP test.

Part I: Listen

Visit www.lepointdufle.net. This website has many activities, including reading, writing, listening, grammar and others. Click on "Activités," then "audi" or "chansons." Fish around until you see something interesting. Some activities will take 5 minutes, others may take 30. Do a mix of audio and song activities, for 30 minutes at a time, at least 4 times this summer, for a total of 2 hours.

Part II: Read

You may read anything you want in French, be it a novel, short stories, poems, news articles, a magazine, etc. You're welcome to check out a few things from me before you leave for the summer, or you can read online. Read at least 4 times for 30 minutes each, for a total of 2 hours.

Part III: Write

Write at least 4 times for 30 minutes each, about anything you want, for a total of 2 hours. You might find it useful to write about what you read, but you are not limited to that. Bring these to class so I can give you helpful hints about how to improve your writing.

Part IV: Speak

Talk to a person who speaks French at least 4 times for 30 minutes each, for a total of 2 hours. If you can find a native speaker to talk to, that's ideal, but you may work with another student if you don't have that luxury.

Use the chart on the other side of this paper to briefly note the date and what activity you did. I urge you to split this up in the various parts of the summer, but above all be honest. If you put it all off until the morning before school starts, at least tell me. I need to know what I'm working with, and I promise I won't hold it against you much.

Listening**Reading****Writing****Speaking**

If you really want to get more practice...

- **Listening:** Watch the French news on WNVC at 7 every day. Listen to French music. You can do it online (just Google French radio station and you'll find a bunch) or buy CDs if you can. *Chacun son style*, of course, but I recommend a compilation like *Hits France 2003* or one of the Star Academy CD's. Also, check out the websites of the French reality shows like *Les Colocataires*, *Star Academy*, *Le Chantier*, etc. The French TV station M6 has been putting up copious amounts of French video material online, and they have just as many reality shows as we do. It may be vapid brain-candy, but it's fun to watch and listen to in French. <http://www.m6.fr/>
- **Reading:** Read a book or magazine in French. Ask me; I've got tons. Or, go online and read about your favorite pastimes in French. Or read the paper online in French.
- **Writing:** Go into French chatrooms and practice your French. It's fun and addictive. Just don't give out your real name or the city you live in (duh). Send an e-mail to your French teacher talking about the exciting things you've done over the summer. I may not check every day in the summer, but when I'm in town, I check. Dan.fitzgerald@fcps.edu. Write a poem. Keep a daily journal. Write a comic strip.
- **Grammar:** Try Tex's French Grammar. It's a great place to practice and test yourself.