

ANCHOR PAPERS

PROMPT:

Americans Should Learn a Second Language

Most Americans born in the United States do not speak a second language. They may have studied another language. However, they usually do not speak or understand it very well. They would have many advantages if they spoke two languages. For this reason, they should be required to learn to speak a second language well.

There are many benefits to learning to speak two languages. Learning more than one language helps develop children's brains. Children who speak two languages usually have stronger and more active brains than children who only speak one language. Learning another language will help children perform better in other subjects in school.

People who speak two languages also have better social skills. They are better at understanding how other people think and feel. They get along better with other people. Getting along with others is an important skill throughout someone's life.

Speaking two languages can help someone get a job. Businesses need people who can communicate with customers who speak different languages. The U.S. government and U.S. military are always looking for bilingual speakers. For example they want to hire people who speak Arabic or Chinese. However, very few Americans study Arabic or Chinese in school or university.

Clearly, speaking a second language is good for learning. It is good for getting along with others, and good for getting a job. All schools should require that American students learn to speak a second language. Everybody deserves to have the benefits and opportunities of being able to speak two languages.

Writing Directions: Read the passage above and write an essay about it. Summarize the main ideas of the passage in your own words. In addition, explain how one or more ideas in the passage relate (connect) to something you have experienced, seen or read, and/or learned in school.

Only a small part of your essay should summarize the passage, but make sure to include all the author's main ideas. Most of the essay should explain how one or more ideas relate to something you have experienced, seen or read, and/or learned in school.

Remember to review your essay and make any changes or corrections that will help your reader clearly understand your essay. You will have 90 minutes to complete your essay.

A

This essay received the following score:

Critical Response: 6

Development: 6

Organization: 6

Word Choice: 5

Sentence Structure, Grammar, Mechanics: 5

According to the Partnership “Americans Should Learn a Second Language,” by Katherine Kinzler, People from North America must learn properly a second language because that will open a door with many opportunities and possibilities for them. Kinzler is showing us the advantages of learn more than one language. For example, it helps with our kinds’ brains because learn a new language make their brains more faster and active than kids who only speak their native language. Also this will help in their environment as students. In addition, learn a new language make a person more sociable because this help them to understand other people way of think, and that is crucial if you want to interact with different kinds of people. Furthermore learn a second language helps people to find an employment, because there are many places where this quality is a requirement. For example, an embassy. Therefore I think most of North Americans must learn a second language because that will give them a better communication among many etcnics and cultures that are also living in the U.S.

A quote that I found really important is “People who speak two languages also have a better social skills. They are better at understanding how other people think and feel. They get along better with other people.” I agree because I have seen many situations where language is a factor that cause inconvenients among people that are trying to get a good communication. This reminds me of a situation that I saw last summer here in New York. It was in a park, alot of people were around talking and sharing drinks and laughs, but I was unable to have a good conversation with others because my English wasn’t good enough. But there were a few people that speak a second language (Spanish) and through them I could have a better understanding of what they were talking about. I know that I need to learn their language to speak to them but also they could learn our language to. That could gives us a better social interaction.

I also can relate this with a situation that a few friends had to deal with once they arrive from D.R. they started highschool and for them was a nightmare. At first they couldn’t understand nothing because it was something completely new for them. They have to deal with this new language and it was a problem for them in class and to socialize with others so Lucky for them they have a teacher that speak two languages and also one guy from the classroom who had more experience dealing with English. According to their story that help from those two was the reason that they could learn this new language and be able to get better, and also make friends at school. But they told me something that I’m completly agree, “all could be easier if more Americans learn another language.”

In conclusion I can say that more people should be interesting in learn more that their native language. For me and my friends was hard but with time we learn, and I think that North Americans should learn another language, Spanish for example, because there are alot of people that speak Spanish, at least in New York, and that will be the right thing to do if we want to have a better understanding between our cultures.