

Reading Reflection #9
Benefits of Second Language Study

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This text provided evidence that relates to many of the other readings and topics we've covered this semester. For example, when we discussed global citizens earlier in the semester, knowledge and awareness of other cultures was a key requirement for a global citizen. The research in this text shows that studying a second language promotes awareness and competency in foreign cultures, such as gaining tolerance for people's differences (5). In addition, second language study is also shown to have a wider impact on global communication and economic competitiveness, which are also important points for global citizens (6).

This text also supplies evidence connecting second language study and 21st century skills. For example, higher order, abstract, and creative thinking are essential for skills such as problem solving and cognitive flexibility (4). These skills are especially important in the 21st century when cooperation and interconnectivity are valued skills across the board in any industry. In addition, studying a second language enhances career opportunities in relation to 21st century skills. For example, proficiency in a second language can be a key hiring decision due to specific language need as well as the overall communication skills and cultural understanding that the proficiency entails (6).

As for our service learning at CPY, I think our work can connect to the evidence in this text as well. For example, a student can enhance their sense of achievement through second language study, which is important for helping find their niche and working on a path to college (4, 6). There are clearly students at CPY who enjoy reading, sports, arts, etc. but it's interesting to see the students who really enjoy language over the other activities. For these students, language may become their niche. Language learning also contributes to other lifelong skills that apply to all disciplines, which CPY tries to inspire in their students as well.

NEA Research. (2007, Dec). The benefits of second language study: Research findings with citations [PDF]. *Regarding World Language Education*. Retrieved from https://ilearn.csumb.edu/pluginfile.php/340197/mod_resource/content/1/BenefitsSecondLanguageStudyNEA.pdf

Notes:

- Connect to previous reading where i said it should not be considered a detraction from the core classes, especially if they benefit other academics (2)
 - No detriment (4)
- Development of 21st century skills are benefitted by learning foreign language, applicable to wide variety of applications
 - Basic skills (2)
 - Higher order, abstract, creative thinking
 - Career opportunities (6)
- Language learning helps develop long term skills too, like CPY
- Enhance sense of achievement, important in kids who haven't found their niche yet or path to college (5, 6)
- Global citizens
 - Cultural awareness and competency (5)
 - Security in community n society (6)