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○ = cant be used

(Title)

Of all the people you know that were born in the United States, how many of them can actually say they are bilingual? Before you answer keep in mind that I'm not talking about being able to recite a couple words or phrases that they remember from high school or college, I mean who can fluently speak another language ^{other} than English. Chances are the number of people you're thinking of isn't that high. You might not know any U.S. born citizens that can claim to be bilingual and that's just how things are turning out these days. Although the percent of bilinguals in the United States is increasing every year, these statistics include foreigners who are coming into the US and have to learn English to thrive. What I want to figure out is, for students born and raised in the United States, is learning a foreign language necessary and should it be required to graduate in high schools and colleges throughout the country?

For as long as I can remember, schools have required students to learn some type of language other than English to obtain their credits and graduate, but when did this requirement first come into place and why? Up until the 17th century, Latin had been the primary language for religion, education, and just about everything else. This soon changed as English, Italian, and French languages were looking to replace Latin. Men like John Amos Comenius tried to reverse

this new shift. He made a complete course for the schools' curriculums that involved the learning of Latin through out the school year. Schools began to implement this way of teaching Latin and even began to implement other languages. This language teaching really began to pick up during the 19th century and has skyrocketed in the 20th. Today, language education is taught all over the world ^{Foreign languages have become} apart of the education curriculum and in some countries it is even regarded as a core subject like Math or Science. For those of us whose primary language is English, has learning a foreign language benefited us?

People around the world are all in favor ^{of} learning foreign languages and keeping them in our schools' curriculums. They say learning foreign languages is necessary if you move to another country or region. Learning the area's local language will not only help you to communicate better, but also you'll ^{be able to} integrate yourself and connect more with the residents. You'll be able to break the cultural barrier between the two languages and understand more ^{about} what another country is like. A culture can be appreciated more once you welcome it into your life and learning a foreign language can be a big step.

Learning new languages can also help in your line of work. If your job involves communicating with those who speak a language other than English, then you'll have no problem negotiating, making contracts, or whatever it is that the job requires. In certain cases, having learned a foreign language can put you in place for a wage increase. Who wouldn't want to earn a little extra cash just for knowing Spanish. Knowing other languages can also increase your chances of going overseas for work and/or foreign business trips. Companies are always looking for employees to represent them in different countries and having learned that language will put

you in the front of the line. Employers must also be able to adapt to a diverse workforce.

Speaking in an employees native tongue will make them feel more comfortable at work.

Students can also benefit from learning a foreign language. Studies have shown that students who study a foreign language in grade school score higher on standardized test scores than those who didn't. "The results of the Louisiana Report on foreign language and basic skills show that regardless of their race, sex, or academic level, students in foreign language classes outperformed those who were not taking foreign languages (Morris)". Listening and memorization skills have also shown to be enhanced when learning a foreign language. Picture this: You've just spent years studying a foreign language that you may not even retain in the future and you find out that your yearly wage will only increase by 2%. Now you ask yourself was it really worth it. There are benefits to learning a foreign language but with a relatively low return on investment, is it really worth spending your time on?

Learning a foreign language definitely isn't worthless. Studies have shown that being bilingual has delayed certain diseases from affecting the brain such as Alzheimer's and dementia. "In a study of 24 million dementia patients worldwide, many of whom also had Alzheimer's, researchers found that the patients who spoke more than one language had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's four years after their monolingual counterparts." Having studied a foreign language also puts you in front of the line for a job opportunity when searching. When businesses plan on expanding overseas, they look for bilingual candidates first then their other options.

These sound like pretty good reasons to study a foreign language right? Well how about when your money gets involved? Albert Saiz, an economist at MIT, tracked 9000 college

graduates to see how learning a foreign language affected their wages. The result was not at all what he expected. "Yeah, unfortunately, and I have to say, of course, because I try to speak three, I was pretty disappointed, and actually we found a very, very small return. In other words, if you speak a second language, you can expect to earn, on average, and that's across many, many different people, on average you can be expected to earn about 2 percent higher wages." For example if you earn \$30,000 a year, then you can expect to earn a \$600 increase in wages. So if you're looking for a lot financial return, a foreign language may not be the best route.

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Informal Works Cited Page

<http://www.omniglot.com/language/why.htm>

http://voices.washingtonpost.com/class-struggle/2010/04/why_waste_time_on_a_foreign_la.html

http://econlog.econlib.org/archives/2012/08/the_marginal_pr.html

<http://tah.oah.org/august-2014/against-language-requirements/>

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Final Writing Peer Review

Directions: Read through your partner's paper and respond to the questions below. Be sure that your responses are detailed and specific - vague feedback does not help your partner at all!

1. Format:

- a. Is the paper double spaced? Yes
- b. Is there a title? Is it engaging? No
- c. Is there a header on each page? Yes
- d. Is there a works cited page/outline after the essay? Yes

2. Identify the claim and write it here. Is the claim clear? How could the claim be made clearer?

Claim: "Is learning a foreign language necessary and should it be required to graduate in high schools and colleges throughout the country?"

The claim is very clear. I don't think it can get much better. The transition into the claim was great!

3. Identify the organizational structure used. Is the claim adequately supported throughout?

Compare and Contrast is the organizational structure used in the paper. Yes, the comparing part of the paper is very self-evident and is quite fascinating.

4. Look for grammatical and spelling errors. Remember, second person pronouns generally should not be used in a formal paper. Mark as necessary. What are the two most common errors you found? I have received many final drafts with major issues. Take the time to go sentence-by-sentence. Read them out loud if you must. How could they be improved?

A whole lot of second person pronouns (you, yours, your). Figure out how to take those out being that it's a formal paper

5. Does the paper achieve its purpose?

Yes. It gives great supporting reasons for both pro-foreign language learning and ap-foreign language learning

6. What was the best part of your partner's paper? What could/should be improved before submitting a final draft?

The comparison part of your paper. I feel the improvement should focus on the contrasting part

7. Read through the paper a second time and re-answer the questions above.