

Salut mon nom est Alexi.

Hi, my name is Alexis O'Brien.

Originally, I just was in French for the credits and in French 3 I was planning on dropping it after that but then my teacher introduced the concept of the IU honors trip during class one day. I kind of just like I'm going! That's not something I normally would have done like I've done like summer camps and stuff before but I've never done anything like this. I just like kind of jumped right into it and like didn't even really think twice about it I was just like I'm doing this.

I'm an only child here but in France I had two siblings. I had a younger brother and a younger sister that was really interesting experience like a different family life in a different family setting but also to experience like the real French family lifestyle like I was able to live the cultural experience that the average French person experience. We had school every morning and it was all about the French language and Linguistics Class, a grammar class, a culture class and, a literature class and each class had something different to offer. Like learning more about the culture and language. Unlike a lot of other cultures influenced French culture so not only did I learn a lot about French culture but also made me a little more like globally aware of like other countries like in Africa from when France.

I was at a McDonald's in Paris with the end of the trip we were all craving American food and so anyways I guess a lot of people like the workers just kind of assumed that I was American and like they just started speaking to me in English like about the menu and stuff like "Hi welcome to McDonalds," like all in English, and obviously since I wasn't allowed to speak English back I kind of just like sat there in like listening and then at the very end of it I said like "thank you" in French but they heard me! And the lady said oh I'm sorry in French and then repeated everything she had just said to me in French. So I mean it's really good to be fluent in more than one language like proficient I guess but it's really important to be like bilingual, trilingual, or whatever like it's important to know more than just English because United States of America does not have an official language. There's no such thing as like true American like food like there's a grilled cheese but like let's be honest it's mostly like a bunch of other cultures that we just enjoy. So it's really important to be able to communicate with other people.

There was one time when I went to NASA on vacation where there was a French family on the bus in front of me. Like we were on a tour bus kind of thing around the campus and the family was really understand I don't know how I was able to get a little bit of information.

I don't really consider myself to be fluent in English either, I still make grammar mistakes even in English so like I am proficient in French like I can read and write in speak in listen there's still some vocab that I'm learning in French 5 in like specific vocabulary that I never really encountered in France. Like we're learning now so that's helpful. French is a lot about like cultures and stuff too so there are other things culturally that I'm learning about like from other french-speaking countries that I didn't really get to learn about on my trip.

I'm kind of hoping to double major in French in college, just like the AP French credit, and being able to test into a higher level of French hopefully because of that I will be able to get my major in French relatively easily. I think the matter what language you're taking try your best to become proficient and it just because it's you'll find your English grammar becoming like so much better. If you learn another language because you go so in-depth about like Linguistics not just like the specific language but you'll learn a lot about languages in general. It's really important and I think if you're in a language no matter what you're taking like try! Don't just do it for the credits but do it for yourself cuz it really helps like you in a lot of other places.

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