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JAPN 320S

Reflection 9

This weeks reading reflection is on the article “ The Benefits of Second Language Study”. The article lists the benefits of foreign language study that has been documented in case studies as well as showing that the United States is falling behind in its foreign language studies in comparison to the rest of the world and reasons for it. First and foremost of course is that studying a foreign language gives a person the ability to converse and understand another foreign language and culture. This is very important to working towards a modern globalized world, as without understanding of one another, people cannot respect the differences between culture, nor recognize the similarities and work together.

Being able to understand another language is not the only benefit though. For example , “ In addition to developing a lifelong ability to communicate with people from other countries and backgrounds, other benefits include improved overall school performance and superior problem-solving skills.” By studying a foreign language even mathematic skills can improve. I didn’t think about it at first, but I definitely feel that after starting to learn Japanese, my problem solving and mathematic abilities have increased and allowed me to become far more proficient. As the article also states, “Foreign language learners consistently outperform control groups in core subject areas on standardized tests often significantly.” Many public schools receive funding based on their standardized testing results and thus focus quite heavily on improving them each year. It seems only logical then given the evidence that schools should focus more on foreign language acquisition because it benefits all subjects and not just the target language.

I didn't realize that foreign language study had such far reaching benefits and feel even
flection 9more so that it's important for foreign language to be focused on schools. The world is
becoming far more interconnected each day, and it's important that we be able to communicate
with one another and respect one another in this globalizing society. But not only is foreign
language study for the target language, but also for improving oneself in all fields and manners
of study.