

VInt Follow-up Activities

Text type: reading

Week: 2

Title: Don't kill your language

Author/Speaker: Suzanne Talhouk

Follow-up Writing:

Paraphrase the following excerpts from the text, as you would when using the information in a summary.

1. The trend is most pronounced among the nation's educated elites, where the habit of speaking French and English in private schools hardens into a fashion long after they've graduated.

2. Instead of giving in to the social pressure, Talhouk says that being conscious of it — and consciously defying it — are the best ways to restore the cultural balance.

Follow-up Discussion Questions:

1. How important is it to you to keep speaking your first language, in addition to English?
2. Do you think parents who have immigrated to English speaking countries should encourage their children to keep speaking both languages? How do you think they should do this?
3. If a person studies a certain subject or discipline in English, do you think it is possible that eventually they will be able to discuss it better in English than in their first language? Can you think of any examples of this from your own life?
4. Have you ever experienced a negative reaction from someone in your home country for not speaking English, as the author describes in the article? Do you believe that the person may have judged you negatively because they thought you couldn't speak English?