

Dr. Bill Fischer
FL 508
April 17, 2008

Politics in France / the United States

Language: French	Standards:		
Unit Cultural Theme or Academic Content Area: Politics/Government, Social Studies, Political History (in the expanded unit/course)	Communication: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1.1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1.2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1.3
Target Audience: High School/College Students	Cultures: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2.1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.2	
Proficiency Level: Intermediate High and above	Connections: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3.1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3.2	
	Comparisons: <input type="checkbox"/> 4.1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4.2	
	Communities: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5.1	<input type="checkbox"/> 5.2	

Unit Timeframe:

One hour-long session, though could be expanded to either a several-week unit or an entire course

Main idea:

My idea for a 60-minute CBI activity uses the Theme Based Model of CBI¹. I would base the session around the theme of Politics and Government. The students would discover—through both outside research and then in-class activities—some of the main values and common hot topics in the target culture’s government (in this case, France). Through a series of activities they would compare this system to their own, and culminate the class period in a final activity of a mock presidential election, where students would represent either a past political figure or their own creation of an “ideal candidate”, defending their political stance. They would create and support this stance with both outside research on the culture and politics of the TC as well as previous in-class discussion. The class would then discuss these various candidates and their merits, and “elect” their ideal leader.

ambitious!

What would go into the “box”: newspaper articles; government documents (information/documents on the EU & the French/American constitutions); a list of online resources for research; lesson plan for the activity, photos of current French/American presidents; campaign realia from France (posters, buttons, French voting ballots?)

¹ See Stephen Davies, *Content Based Instruction in EFL Contexts*. <http://iteslj.org/Articles/Davies-CBI.html>

Is there a French equivalent of the US sites where people can find the best match between their own beliefs and those of various politicians?