



Advocacy begins at school in our classes. We

are passionate about the languages we teach, and we have devoted many years to their study. When we share the passion, we need to share the reasons also. “Because it’s fun” or “Because the culture is fabulous” or “It’s a great literature” may not be reason enough to sell a language to a dubious parent or a skeptical student. When advocating for a language, don’t forget the budget conscious administrator or the concerned board of education member. Some hard data or interesting anecdotal information can go a long way toward helping your enrollments.

Remember, students and parents and administrators also want practical reasons. We can be sure we explain how learning the language we teach will increase marketability in the workplace as well as enhance leisure activities. And we can remind everyone often, especially the students in our classrooms. The internet is a rich source of information with current numbers of speakers of the language and surprising facts about the language and its culture. Here are some samples of useful information and “cool facts” to entice our students and convince their parents that your class is right for them and learning a language is a necessity. These documents will be available on TFLA (Advocacy) website, www.tfla.info.

Why Study Spanish? Ten Top Reasons

http://www.studyspanish.com/topten_reasons.htm

Why Study French: 75 Top Reasons

http://faculty.kutztown.edu/dewey/why_french.htm

Why Study German?

http://www.vistawide.com/german/why_german.htm

Why Study Chinese?

<http://web.bu.edu/mlcl/about/why-study/chinese.html>

Why Study Japanese?

<http://web.bu.edu/mlcl/about/why-study/japanese.html>

Why Study Latin?

<http://www.ccaeagles.org/elementary/upload/Why-Study-Latin.pdf>

Why study Russian?

<http://web.bu.edu/mlcl/about/why-study/russian.html>

Why Study American Sign Language ASL

<http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-layout/whystudyasl.htm>

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