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Second Language Acquisition and Its Practical Application: Evaluating French Textbooks at the Secondary School Level

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Oral Presentation 3.1

**SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION AND ITS PRACTICAL APPLICATION:
EVALUATING FRENCH TEXTBOOKS AT THE SECONDARY
SCHOOL LEVEL**

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In my research project, I look broadly at how tradition plays a part in the teaching of French at the secondary school level. Traditionally, many instructors of French focus on grammar, pronunciation, or reading French texts in the classroom. However, research from the last 20+ years suggests that more emphasis should be placed on speaking and exposure to culture and cultural differences. After looking at SLA (Second Language Acquisition) theories in order to familiarize myself with current beliefs about how languages are learned, I have studied various textbooks that exist on the market and that are in use today in the American school system. Based on my research, as well as on the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) "Standards for Foreign Language Learning", I have developed a tool for evaluating the ways in which textbooks address current trends in SLA research and proposed national guidelines.