Family Traditions
Primary Content Area: French I

Introduction
This project is meant to provide a service-learning supplement to a Family Vocabulary and Adjectives unit in a beginner to intermediate French class. The service project involves three steps: (1) Teach the vocabulary related to family and adjectives as you normally would; (2) Supplement your lessons with activities to gain a deeper appreciation for family by creating a personal family tree project, use authentic resources (Families of the World video, interview with elderly person, and picture-prompted writing using photos from Material World) available from sites provided below; and (3) Complete a service project at a local nursing home where the students interview an elderly person and create an artifact that reflects what they learn about the person’s family.

Project Goals
- Students will be able to describe and use various words and adjectives pertaining to family.
- Students will be able to compare and contrast family lifestyles in the U.S. and in French speaking countries.
- Students will build a relationship with a senior citizen and create an artifact to share.
- Students will reflect on their experiences.

Procedure/Project Sequence:
1. Introduce family vocabulary and adjectives as you normally would.
2. Ask students to create an artifact that represents their family.
3. Have students use pictures from Material World: A Global Family Portrait to describe their family members.
4. Watch “Families of the World” to learn about families in target country.
5. Contact Chicago Department on Aging to set up event at local nursing home (see contact information below).
6. Ask nursing home residents to bring a personal artifact to use as a conversation starter. Recommend that the students do the same.
7. Have students interview and work with their nursing home partner to create family artifact (decorated family tree, narrative with photo, Dada poem with family words and names, etc.). Have students ask for permission to take photos with their residents.
8. As a follow-up activity, investigate the possibility of having your students host a French Café meal or other themed dinner.
9. Guide your students in a post-project reflection session. Some ideas include:
   - Write a one-page reflection in English and list new and old vocabulary in target language. Include what worked and didn’t work. Ask students to reflect on the artifact they used and its importance.
   - Have students present the artifact they used, and discuss the service experience.

Community Partners/Resources
Websites:
www.familiesoftheworld.com/ - Video series showcasing families from around the world
www.menzelphoto.com/gallery/mw.htm - A Material World photo exhibit web site
Addendum

Duration
Students should spend 7-10 hours on this project depending on the length of time at the senior center or nursing home.

Preparation: Writing/Video/Family tree activity – 3 hours
Action: Service experience at senior center – 3-5 hours
Reflection: Writing/Discussion – 1-2 hours

Cross-Curricular Connections
This lesson can include interdisciplinary ties with World Studies (study the time period) and with Math (statistics on aging and social security).