

French Language Lesson: Argumentation

Building evidence-based arguments through
real-world democratic transitions

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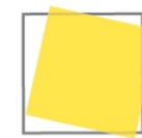
Grade 6 | Ages 16–18 | 90 minutes
CESS Vocational Curriculum



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Why this lesson works as a best practice

Authentic question

Students argue about competing paths to democracy rather than practising argumentation in isolation.

Evidence matters

Opinions must be connected to arguments and supported with evidence from case studies.

Multiple modes

Written and visual materials alternate with pair discussion, writing and presentation.

Purposeful AI

MagicSchool, Diffit and Gamma support different stages of lesson design and delivery.

Visible learning

Students produce an argumentative paragraph and receive peer feedback.

The core learning objective

Students will be able to:

**make a connection between two opposing opinions
and back them up with evidence.**

The lesson develops the relationship between:

Opinion

Argument

Counter-
argument

Examples

Linking words

The hook: take a position in five minutes

Which method of transition offers the best chances of creating a stable and lasting democracy?

**Violent
revolution**

**Peaceful
referendum**

**Civil
war**

Students justify their answer by comparing at least two of the three case studies.

AI-supported design: MagicSchool and Diffit

The lesson journey



The sequence repeatedly moves between thinking, evidence, structure and communication.

Mini-lesson: what makes an argument work?

The teacher explains five building blocks:

- 1 Opinion** What you think
- 2 Argument** Why you think it
- 3 Explanation** How the reasoning works
- 4 Example** Evidence that supports it
- 5 Linking words** How ideas connect

Practice: build the argument before writing it

1. Analyse

Students use data from video analysis and the supporting source material.

2. Organise

They build a plan using a predefined table.

3. Connect

They link an opinion to supporting arguments, examples and appropriate connectors.

Differentiation

Different media (written + visual) and alternation between oral discussion and writing.

AI tool used for practice/differentiation: Diffit

AI has a different job at each stage

MagicSchool

Helped generate an interactive introductory activity.

Diffit

Supported the warm-up and differentiated practice.

Gamma

Generated an explanatory slide with examples for the mini-lesson.

AI supports design and scaffolding; students still have to reason, select evidence and communicate their own argument.

Formative assessment: can the argument hold together?

Task Write an argumentative paragraph on the question introduced during the warm-up.

Success criteria

Logical connection

The opinion expressed is logically connected to the arguments used to support it.

Use of connectors

Linking words are used appropriately to structure the reasoning.

AI support: the topic was AI-generated.

A deliberately mixed learning environment

AI-generated

Exercises
Note-taking sheet

Digital sources

YouTube video
transcript
Excerpts from online
articles

Classroom tools

Projector
Computer
Board
Dictionaries

Why this matters

Students encounter argumentation through several formats rather than through explanation alone.

The learning continues beyond the paragraph

In class

Students present their paragraphs and receive peer feedback.

Follow-up task

Write a ~400 word reasoned response to the opening question.

- Four body paragraphs + introduction + conclusion
- Use specific evidence from Romania, Chile and Zaire
- Other sources may also be used

The homework scales the same reasoning from a paragraph to a complete argumentative response.

Teacher reflection & transferable insight

What worked

Time management was optimal, and understanding was enhanced.

What could improve

A video showing how arguments are used to convince would have been more suitable for the warm-up.

What another teacher can borrow

Start with a debatable real-world question → teach the mechanics of argument → analyse evidence → structure → write → share → extend.

Best-practice principle: AI helps shape the learning environment; evidence-based reasoning remains the student's task.

Merci!

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