

Winning the two-minute culture comparison talk

AP French Language and Culture · Lesson

This AP French lesson explains **AP French cultural comparison** step by step, with examples in French and English. Then practise with the worksheet on AP French cultural comparison and check yourself with the quiz.

Quick answer: The AP French cultural comparison is a two-minute recorded talk in which a student compares a francophone community with their own. Use the four minutes of preparation to build a five-part outline: introduction, first community, second community, comparison, and conclusion. Precise examples, comparison phrases, and accurate present-tense French earn the strongest scores.

Level: AP French Language and Culture · **Standards:** AP French Language and Culture (College Board CED), Presentational Speaking

AP French cultural comparison: the lesson

What is the AP cultural comparison task?

In this Presentational Speaking task, the prompt appears in French. After 4 minutes of reading and planning, the student records a presentation of 2 minutes. The prompt asks for a comparison between a community in the francophone world and the student's own community (or another community the student knows) on a topic such as school life, festivals, housing, or leisure.

Préparation : 4 min

Parole : 2 min

Lire le sujet, noter 5 idées

Enregistrement

The clock of the task: 4 minutes to plan, 2 minutes to speak.

How should a two-minute talk be organized?

Part	Time	Model sentence
Introduction	15 s	Je vais comparer la vie des lycéens à Annecy et dans ma ville.

Part	Time	Model sentence
Francophone community	35 s	À Annecy, beaucoup d'élèves font du ski le mercredi.
My community	35 s	Chez moi, on joue au football américain le vendredi soir.
Comparison	25 s	Comme à Annecy, le sport rassemble les amis.
Conclusion	10 s	Pour conclure, nos traditions sont différentes, mais l'esprit d'équipe est le même.

Example

À Annecy, on se baigne dans le lac en été. — In Annecy, people swim in the lake in summer.

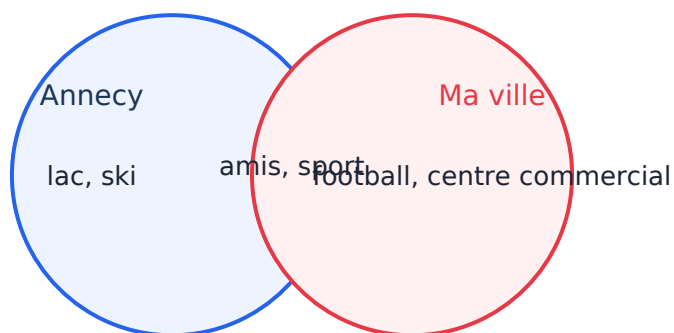
Which phrases link the two communities?

Comparison and contrast

- Difference: alors que, tandis que, contrairement à, en revanche.
- Similarity: comme, de même, aussi ... que.
- Degree: plus de ... que de, moins de ... que de, autant de ... que de.

Contrairement à ma ville, Liège a un marché couvert tous les jours. — Unlike my town, Liège has an indoor market every day.

Il y a plus de vélos que de voitures dans ce quartier. — There are more bikes than cars in this neighborhood.



A Venn sketch gives the comparison part of the talk its content.

Common mistake

English speakers say *more bikes than cars* and drop the preposition. French needs *de* twice: plus **de** vélos que **de** voitures. Also, a city takes à (à Dakar), not dans.

Culture note

Francophone communities are spread over five continents. La Fête de la musique takes place every June 21 and began in France in 1982; many cities abroad now join in, so it makes a good comparison topic.

Zoé's tip

Write two ideas per community, and attach one concrete example to each. Specific details, such as a named festival or a daily habit, sound more convincing than a list of general words.

Key points to remember

- The prompt is in French; planning time is 4 minutes and the recorded talk lasts 2 minutes.
- The talk must compare two communities, not describe only one.
- A five-part outline fits 120 seconds: 15 + 35 + 35 + 25 + 10.
- Comparison phrases such as *alors que*, *contrairement à* and *plus de ... que de* make the contrast clear.
- One concrete example per idea is stronger than five vague statements.

Winning the Two-Minute Culture Comparison Talk: frequently asked questions

How long is the AP French cultural comparison?

The recorded talk lasts two minutes, after four minutes of reading and planning. A good plan is the five-part outline in this lesson.

Must the talk compare two communities?

Yes. The prompt asks for a comparison, so both communities need examples and the talk needs explicit links between them.

Which tense should be used?

The present tense for habits and traditions. A past tense or the future is welcome for one short example, but accuracy matters more than variety.

What if a word is missing during the talk?

Explain it with other French words (circumlocution) and keep going. Silence costs more than a simple paraphrase.

Should the talk be memorized?

No. Notes with keywords and an outline sound natural. A memorized script usually sounds flat and collapses after one forgotten word.