The best moment of this project was conducting my interview with Mrs. Ramereiz because it confirmed a lot of my research that I had conducted, and it was nice to talk to someone who also cared about this topic. With her interview it gave me hope that if I know of people who are passionate about language that maybe I can bring that love of language to others. The worst moment of this project was experiencing the frustration of having a topic that many people don’t feel is important, and trying to get others to see the importance of it through my presentation. The light that guided me through the frustration was that even if just one person sees it's important it is progress made in the right direction. With these moments established I will now talk about how I would change my presentation.

If I could go back and change anything about this project I would choose to show my presentation to the middle schoolers or even elementary school students because I feel I would have audience that would be more enthusiastic about my topic. The reasoning behind this is that younger children are more open to different viewpoints than their older classmates. I also feel that showing this project to my fellow seniors skewed their view against my topic because I am essentially asking the Department of Education to increase the amount of curriculum that they are required to take in order to graduate. I believe that this point made a significant impact on my ability to be an effective speaker, and touch my audience. You might be wondering how has this project impacted me while I will mention that next.

This experience has influenced my future plans in that it further inspires me to continue my goal to becoming bilingual, and to double major in Economics and German. This project has inspired me to continue because it has made me realize how much I don’t want to be the average American and only be monolingual. In pursuing this subject I realized that despite the importance of this issue in our education system, no lawmaker has been willing to go to bat for it. Due to this I feel a sense of responsibility when I go to college to show others that the benefits of learning a language are far and wide, and that something must be done so that future generations of American students can better communicate in this global world that we live in. Unlike the funding of music programs, foreign language education faces another hurdle of that people hold the ethnocentric view that we don’t need to learn another countries language because we are the superpower. I hope through showing you one of the problems I encountered that we can work to reaching this goal.

The part of this project that I found challenged me the most was having to figure out a way to address my audience, and show them that the belief that Americans don’t need to learn a language is false. As any person knows it is often very hard to change people’s mind about a subject that has been labeled insignificant by society and even people’s parents. I feel through my presentation that I was able to demonstrate for my classmates the benefits of learning a language, and how far the United States is in terms of teaching its citizens to be a globally competent citizen. Now let me illustrate for you how this project has changed me on a personal level.

The Culminating Senior Project has changed my concept of self in that it makes me more confident in my ability to change the world around me. It shows me that just because others don’t seem to care doesn’t mean that you should just give up. Instead it illustrates that it will take more work to show people that we can’t ignore our lack of foreign education for long. Due to this project I am inspired to continue my efforts in what way I am still uncertain, but I have always come up with a plan for everything.

This project has also raised a key question for me that I feel needs to be addressed is if the attitude persists that Americans don’t need to learn a language how can we change people’s perception? Will people only change their viewpoint on foreign language when the government decides to implement a strong foreign language curriculum? I hope for the future that we can inspire a love of language, and can create a education system that encourages multilingualism.