

# How learning languages changed my life for the better!

Hello my name is Emily Malone. And for my capstone I'm going to be talking about how learning different languages changed my life for the better and how it has changed my career path.

Over the last four years I have been learning three different languages. French, Spanish, and ASL. Though I believe that the most influential language that I have been learning has to be ASL.

Growing up I have always believed that I was different from other kids my age. Though it didn't phase me that a huge thing that was different was because everyone had a father that was there for them everyday. My dad has been going in and out of prison since I was five years old.

I have always felt out of place with some of my friends never really knowing why. Nor did I know how to fulfill the empty space I felt.

My sophomore year I started to take French. It was a little bit hard for me to learn french, though I am still learning french. It still gave me a sense of relief. And going to France that summer really opened my eyes to what life could be like when I learn more than just french.

See our group stayed with our penpals that we have been writing to all year. And some of our penpals learned a lot of English phrases. And some of them were fluent in Spanish and English as well as French.

And that is when my eyes kind of opened up to the opportunity to speak other languages.

A huge help for me learning a new language or the concept of a new language was an app/website called “Duolingo”. It is an app/website where you can learn the general basics of a language. It has about 35 different languages on it. From French to Turkish to Navajo to Arabic to Romanian.

Madame Doss recommended this app to me a couple of months before we went to France and I have been using it ever since then. It's really fun to use and really easy as well. I would totally recommend it to anyone wanting to learn another language.

Now it's two years later and now I am almost completely fluent in American sign language (ASL). I have been learning French and Spanish.

Ever since I have become fluent in ASL I have really seen an impact it has had on my life as it has on others as well.

At my work (which I have been at for about 3 years now) I have seen many different people with many different backgrounds come into my store. People from places like France, Spain, Scotland, Ireland, and much more different countries.

People who are deaf / hard of hearing. Or people who are not that fluent in English or don't know English at all. And it has been really fun being able to speak to customers in ASL or in Spanish or French.

I hope to have learned more languages over the next several years. My plan is that I am fluent in at least five languages by the time I am 36. Which I am really looking forward to. Being able to learn different languages has been really interesting for so far. So starting to begin my career now is what I plan on doing for the upcoming weeks.

In the future I plan on expanding my knowledge on speaking other languages so that when I join the military I can become a translator.

Growing up I have always wanted to become a doctor like the ones in Grey's Anatomy. I always wanted to go into the military as well. But ever since I started learning new languages I have wanted to become a translator. Whether I am a translator or a medic. I think it would really be cool to change the world. I have been through a lot. But I don't believe at all that this is close to the end.

Because of the stuff that I have been through and what I have witnessed as a child I plan on being something apart from being "another statistic". Or being tied down from what choices either one of my parents made over the years. I don't want my life to be like there is a cloud hanging over me. Over the years I have chosen to lead my life down a path of darkness, pain, despair, because of my dad being a drug addict and being in prison for most of my life, and my mom was always working.

Growing up I have always been in a pit of anger. Or in a place where I have always been angry, depressed, or felt some sort of self-pity. Sometimes it was all three. But since I have experienced things like going to France. Or coming to TSAS. Or simply learning a new language. I have found myself to enjoy life's many blessings. Like enjoying family night with my siblings and my mom. Enjoying the time I have with my older brother, John, whenever he is home. (mainly because he has been in the US Navy for over a year. And spending time with my little sister that I do not see that often anymore do to the Pandemic going on currently.

The thing is I am trying to change my life. Like I have said earlier I don't plan on being just "another statistic". If I end up being just a statistic, then I want to be a statistic that helps change the world.

**THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**