

# THE FRENCH AND FASHION

*FIDM's Just for Educators Classroom Projects & Activities*



## **Objective:**

Using a universal interest of teens, the student will explore the French language by integrating words into a fashion essay on a current French fashion designer.

**Suggested for use in the following Departments:** *French*

## **Student Activities:**

In a class discussion, list on the board the names of French fashion designers with whom students are familiar. Have a discussion of what they know about each designer. Students are given a list of French words pertaining to fashion. They write the literal translation for each word and how it might be used in a fashion sense. Using these words/phrases, write a one page single-spaced essay in French reviewing a current French fashion designer's collection. Enhance the essay with pictures clipped from fashion magazines.

## **Arizona State Standards:**

### **• Language Arts Standards: French**

#### Concept 4 – Vocabulary:

- PO 1. The student will determine the meaning of vocabulary, using linguistic roots and affixes (e.g. Latin, Greek, Anglo-Saxon).
  
- PO.5 The student will determine the meanings, pronunciation, contextually appropriate synonyms and antonyms, replacement words and phrases, etymologies and correct spellings of words by using resources such as general and specialized dictionaries, thesauri, glossaries, and CD- Rom and the internet when available.

## **California State Standards:**

### **• Language Learning Continuum: French:**

#### **Stage I – Text Type:**

Students can use short sentences, learn words and phrases, and simple questions and commands when speaking and writing.

#### **Stage II – Text Type:**

Students can create simple paragraphs when writing.

#### **Stage IV – Text Type:**

Students can create a series of coherent paragraphs when writing.

## **Washington State Standards:**

### **• Writing:**

- 2.2 The student writes in a variety of forms for different audiences and purposes.
  - 2.1 Adapts writing for a variety of audiences.
  - 2.2 Writes for different purposes.

## **Materials Needed:**

- The internet
- Paper
- Pencil
- Fashion Magazines

## **Warm-Up Exercise:**

In a class discussion, have students volunteer the names of French fashion designers that they have knowledge of. List these designers on the board. Have a brief discussion about what they might know about these designers.

## ***Project Guidelines:***

Pick seven or more words from the words/phrases listed below:

a la mode	chemise	de trop	panache
a ma facon	chemisier	du jour	par excellence
armee	chic	eau de cologne	passe
avant garde	chignon	eau de toilette	peau de sole
azurer	corde du roi	elan	peignoir
blasé	costume	faux	petite
basque	cotte	habiller	plus ca change
blanc	couroie	haute couture	prêt-a-porter
bleu	couture	jaune	rosir
bouilloone	couturier	jeunesse doree	rouge
bourse	crepe de chine	lame	soigné
brocade	croix	linon a fleurs	sol-disant
burat	culotte	louche	tailleur
cachet	decolletage	macramé	tennis
cap-a-pied	demode	mer	tricot
c'est la mode	dernier cri	noir	tunique
chapeau	deshabille	nouveau riche	venu/e
cap-a-pied	de rigueur	nouvelle vague	vert

- a. Write the literal translation for each word. If the word has a general meaning, define how it might be used in a fashion sense.
- b. Using these words/phrases, write a one page single-spaced essay in French reviewing a current French fashion designer's collection.
- c. If available, clip pictures from fashion magazines to enhance the essay.

## Supplement for Teachers: Definitions

**a la mode** – in the fashion

**a ma facon** – in my fashion or my way

**armee** – red

**avant garde**

**azurer** – blue

**basque** – skirt

**blanc** – white

**blasé** – bland

**bleu** – blue

**bouilloone** – a gathered or lined band of fabric

**bourse** – purse

**brocade** – jacquard-weave fabric having interwoven all over designs of raised figures, usually flowers or foliage

**burat** – sturdy woolen fabric

**cachet** – a distinctive quality

**cap-a-pied** – from head to foot

**c'est la mode** – “such is fashion”

**chapeau** – a hat

**chemise** – shirt

**chemisier** – blouse

**chic** - stylish

**chignon** – a hairstyle worn in a roll at the nape of the neck

**corde du roi** – cloth of kings

**costume** - costume

**cotte** – coat

**courroie** - belt

**couture** - fashion

**couturier** – a fashion designer

**crepe de chine**

**croix** - red

**culotte** – pants

**décolletage** – a low neckline

**dernier cri** – the latest fashion (lit. “last scream”)

**habille** – partially clad

**de rigueur** – required or expected, especially with reference to fashion

**de trop** - excessive

**du jour** – said of something fashionable or hip for a day and quickly forgotten

**eau de cologne** – fragrance made with the water from cologne

**eau de toilette** – fragrance with a greater percentage of water

**élan** – a distinctive flair

**faux** - false

**habiller** – dress

**haute couture** – trend setting fashion.

**Jaune** - yellow

**jeunesse doree** – wealthy, fashionable young people (lit. “glided youth”)

**lame** – a type of fabric woven or knit with metallic yarns.

**Linon a fleurs** – floral printed fine lawn or linen

**Louche** – of questionable taste

**macramé** – coarse lace work made with knotted cords.

**mer** – red

**noir** - black

**nouveau riche** – people who have recently become rich and who display their wealth ostentatiously (lit. “new rich”)



**nouvelle vague** – a new trend in something. (lit. “new wave”)

**panache** – verve; flamboyance

**par excellence** – quintessential (lit. “by excellence”)

**passé** – out of fashion

**peau de sole** – skin of silk, dull fabric

**peignoir** – a woman’s dressing gown; a negligee; a bathrobe.

**petite** - short

**plus ça change** – phrase that means “the more things change, the more they stay the same.”

**prêt-a-porter** – ready-to-wear clothing

**rosir** - pink

**rouge** - red

**soigné** – fashionable; polished

**sol-disant** – self-styled; so-called (lit. “self-saying”)

**tailleur** – suit

**tennis** – shoe

**tricot** – a knit fabric

**tunique** - gown

**venu/e** – invited man/woman for a show

**Vert** – green

### ***Possible Follow-up:***

When English is short a fashion word, it always borrows one from France. Identify fashion words that have their root in the French language. Give prizes or extra credit for the student that finds the most words.