

Research Notebooks

Guidelines

Notebook Setup & Requirements

- **PURCHASE:** A dedicated notebook (physical, not digital) for this project exclusively.
- **LABEL:** Clearly label it as “BFI American Partnership Project - [Your Name] - [Year]”.

Weekly Documentation Requirements

Throughout the summer and academic year, ensure to maintain a weekly entry in your notebook. Each entry should include the following components:

- **DATE:** _____
- **WEEK OF:** _____

Suggested to include:

This Week's Focus

- What aspect of your project did you work on?

Progress Made

- Concrete steps taken this week

New Insights

- What did you learn or realize this week?

Assumptions Challenged

- What beliefs or expectations were questioned?

Partnership Developments

- Any communication or collaboration progress

Process Reflections

- How is your research method working? What would you adjust?

Next Week's Goals

Mood/Confidence Check

- How are you feeling about your project progress?
 - 😡 Frustrated
 - 😐 Uncertain
 - 😊 Confident
 - 🎯 Excited

Monthly Deep Reflection Prompts

Once a month, use these prompts for longer entries:

Month 1 (Summer)

- How has my central question evolved since I first wrote it?
- What cultural assumptions about America am I becoming aware of?
- How is forming a hypothetical answer helping my research process?

Month 2 (Early School Year)

- How did my partner research change my understanding of American professional culture?
- What surprised me most about the partnership outreach process?
- How are my sources challenging or confirming my hypothetical answer?

Month 3 (Mid-Project)

- How has working with my American partner changed my perspective?
- What French/European viewpoints am I recognizing in myself?
- How is my final answer different from my hypothetical answer?

Month 4 (Pre-Presentation)

- What has been the most valuable part of this intercultural research process?
- How will I present the evolution of my thinking to the BAC jury?

- **What would I tell future students about this type of project?**

Notebook Assessment Criteria

Your notebook will be evaluated based on:

- **Consistency:** Regular, dated entries throughout the project.
- **Authenticity:** Genuine reflection, not just surface-level reporting.
- **Growth Documentation:** Clear evidence of evolving understanding.
- **Process Awareness:** Thoughtful analysis of your research methods.
- **Cultural Insights:** Recognition of intercultural learning.
- **Academic Honesty:** No AI-generated content, authentic student voice.

Using Your Notebook for Final Oral Preparation

Your notebook is an essential tool for preparing your final presentation. It will help you:

- **Demonstrate the evolution of your thinking to the BAC jury.**
- **Provide concrete examples of intercultural learning.**
- **Show your research methodology and process.**
- **Highlight unexpected discoveries and changed assumptions.**
- **Prove authentic engagement with American perspectives.**

Sample Notebook Excerpts for Presentation

- “On [date], I wrote... but after speaking with my American partner, I realized...”
- “My initial assumption was... but my research revealed...”
- “The biggest surprise in my project was... [specific notebook entry]”