The use of video in the classroom can be a wonderful asset to the World Languages teacher and a most beneficial learning tool for the language student. Video enables students to experience whatever it is they are learning in their textbook in a real-life setting. With each lesson, they are able to take a vicarious field trip. They see people interacting at home, at school, at the market, etc., in an authentic milieu. Students sitting in a classroom can see real people going about their real life in real places. They may experience the target culture in many countries. The cultural benefits are limitless.

Developing listening and viewing skills  In addition to its tremendous cultural value, video, when properly used, gives students much needed practice in developing good listening and viewing skills. Video allows students to look for numerous clues that are evident in a tone of voice, facial expressions, and gestures. Through video students can see and hear the diversity of the target culture and, as discerning viewers and listeners, compare and contrast the French-speaking cultures to each other and to their own culture. Video introduces a dimension into classroom instruction that no other medium — teachers, overhead, text, Audio CDs—can provide.

Reinforcing learned language  Video that is properly developed for classroom use has speakers reincorporate the language students have learned in a given lesson. In keeping with reality, however, speakers introduce some new words, expressions, and structures because students functioning in a real-life situation would not know every word native speakers use with them in a live conversation. The lively and interactive nature of video allows students to use their listening and viewing skills to comprehend new language in addition to seeing and hearing the language they have learned come to life.

Getting the most out of video  The intrinsic benefit of video is often lost when students are allowed to read the scripted material before viewing. In many cases, students will have come to understand language used by the speakers in the video by means of reading comprehension, thus negating the inherent benefits of video as a tool to develop listening and viewing skills. Because today’s students are so accustomed to the medium of video as a tool for entertainment and learning, a well-written and well-produced video program will help them develop real-life language skills and confidence in those skills in an enjoyable way.
Je suis Christine. Je suis de Fort-de-France, à la Martinique.

Je suis Manu. Je suis de l'Algérie.


Je suis Chloé. Je suis de Lyon, France.

Je suis Amadou. Je suis du Mali.
Épisode 1: Une amie et un ami

Avant de regarder
Can you spot the following?
1. un garçon brun
2. une fille brune
3. une vue splendide sur Paris
4. une caméra
5. une fille enthousiaste

Après avoir regardé
Expansion You will be taking a video tour of Paris. As you watch, look for similarities you notice between Paris and the city or town where you live. What differences do you notice? Choose several places in Paris that you would like to visit. Do some research to find out more about Paris. Why do you find it interesting?
Épisode 2: Les cours et les profs

Avant de regarder
Make an educated guess!

1. In the first photograph, what do you think Vincent is doing?
2. In the second photo, does Manu look as if he knows what he is doing?
3. How does Vincent look as he watches Manu?
4. Do you think the experiment is going to be successful?

Après avoir regardé

Expansion As you watch the video, think about whether there are any similarities between the school you see in the video and the one you attend. Do you notice any differences? Which might you prefer? Why? Do some research about schedules in French schools. Are the schedules for French students like yours?
Épisode 3: Pendant et après les cours

Avant de regarder
Can you spot the following?
1. une papeterie
2. une calculatrice
3. une rue
4. des fournitures scolaires
5. deux amis

Après avoir regardé
Expansion  You will see something in the video that Christine enjoys doing after school. Compare her likes to some of those that you may have. See whether or not you have anything in common with your new French friends. Think about the other people in the video. Knowing what you know about them, what might they enjoy doing after school?
Épisode 4: La famille et la maison

Christine a une surprise pour Mme Séguin.

Christine et Mme Séguin dans la cuisine de la maison de Monet

Avant de regarder
Can you spot the following? If so, give an adjective to describe each.

1. un jardin
2. un immeuble
3. une cuisine
4. une fleur
5. une voiture

Après avoir regardé
Expansion  Giverny, a charming village northwest of Paris, is a beautiful spot. Can you think of any place near where you live that could compare to Giverny? Do some research to find out more about this famous place where Monet lived and write a paragraph about it or discuss with a friend what you found out that is of interest to you.
Avant de regarder

Invent the following.
1. le nom du café
2. ce que Chloé commande
3. ce que Christine commande
4. ce que dit le serveur

Après avoir regardé

Expansion  As you can imagine from what you saw in the video, café life is an important part of French culture. Do you have any cafés near where you live? If you do, do you and your friends go there often? If not, do you think you might enjoy them based on what you viewed in the video?
Épisode 6: La nourriture et les courses

Avant de regarder
Answer the questions.
1. Où sont Vincent et Manu?
2. Qu’est-ce qu’ils font?
3. Qu’est-ce qu’ils achètent, d’après vous?
4. Qui va payer, d’après vous?
5. Qu’est-ce qu’ils vont manger?

Après avoir regardé
Expansion  What foods that you saw in the French supermarket are similar to those found in your supermarket? Do some research on the Internet to find a French recipe that you and your family might enjoy. Then make a list of all the ingredients you need from the supermarket to prepare this recipe.
Épisode 7: Les vêtements

Avant de regarder

Describe the following.
1. ce que porte Christine
2. ce que porte Chloé
3. ce que porte la vendeuse
4. la robe que Christine essaie

Après avoir regardé

Expansion  The world of fashion is significant in Paris and in other parts of the French-speaking world. Do some research on a famous French designer. Tell whether or not you might enjoy wearing his or her clothing. If you are artistic, draw a fashion that your designer might design.
Épisode 8: L’aéroport et l’avion

Avant de regarder
Can you spot the following? How many of each do you see?
1. une valise
2. un passager
3. une carte d’embarquement
4. un comptoir
5. un bagage à main

Expansions

Après avoir regardé
You have been exposed to many parts of the French-speaking world. Choose a place that you would most like to visit. Do some research on the Internet to plan your itinerary. Include the places you would like to visit in the city or town of your choice and explain how you would get there.
Épisode 9: La gare et le train

Avant de regarder
Answer the questions.
1. Où sont Amadou et Chloé?
2. Qu’est-ce qu’ils font?
3. D’après vous, qui est l’homme avec eux?
4. D’après vous, qu’est-ce que nos amis demandent à cet homme?

Après avoir regardé

Amadou et Chloé partent pour Lille. Ils prennent leurs billets.

Expansion What is your favorite means of transportation for long trips. Why? Do you think most Americans would make the same choice? Survey your friends to find out their preferences.
Épisode 10: Les sports

Manu est fana de basket-ball. C’est son sport favori.

Manu joue bien au basket.

Avant de regarder

Make an educated guess!

1. Où est Manu?
2. Qui joue au basket-ball?
3. Ce sont des amies de Manu?
4. Quel est le score?
5. Que fait Manu à la fin du match?

Après avoir regardé

Expansion  Think of some famous French athletes and do some research to find out about them. Choose one you think is particularly good and research his or her career.
Épisode 11: L’été et l’hiver

Christine «apprend» à faire du ski.

Manu est un très bon moniteur.

Avant de regarder
Can you spot the following? If so, describe each one.
1. une montagne
2. un skieur
3. une piste
4. un sommet
5. un anorak

Après avoir regardé
Expansion What fun activity do you do in the winter? And in the summer? Are video games a big part of your life?
Épisode 12: La routine quotidienne

Manu se réveille.

Manu prend son petit déjeuner.

Avant de regarder

Answer the questions.

1. Que fait Manu?
2. Que lui donne Vincent dans la salle de bains?
3. Que va faire Manu avec ça?
4. Qu’est-ce que Vincent donne à Manu dans sa chambre?
5. Qu’est-ce que Manu va faire?

Après avoir regardé

Expansion  Is it easy for you to get up in the morning or not? Do you go to bed early or late? Do you sleep well at night? Compare Manu’s day with a typical day in your life.
Épisode 13: Les loisirs culturels

Avant de regarder
Can you spot the following?
1. une exposition
2. une danseuse
3. un tableau
4. une peinture
5. une statue

Après avoir regardé
Expansion  Are you aware of your cultural heritage? Can you name some famous American painters, musicians, architects? Do some research on the Internet about the musée d’Orsay. Who are some of the artists whose art is shown there? Can you find out what special exhibitions there are currently?
Épisode 14: La santé et la médecine

Avant de regarder

Answer the questions.

1. Où est Vincent?
2. Pourquoi, d’après vous?
3. Vincent a un mouchoir dans la main.
   Pourquoi?
4. D’après vous, Vincent est très malade?
5. Que lui dit le médecin?

Après avoir regardé

Expansion  Do you go to the doctor’s every time something is wrong with you? Why or why not? Does your doctor make house calls? Do some research online about medical achievements and famous doctors in France. You may want to begin with an online visit to l’Institut Pasteur.