

# **Leading through Language Learning and Teaching: The Case of Gandhi**

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## **Student activity:**

### **Incorporating a study of a leader or role model's experience with language learning into the classroom to increase student curiosity and motivation**

***Step 1 - Identify a broad theme of interest.*** In my case it was leadership. It could be history, politics, psychology, music, theatre, science, medicine or any discipline. It is important that each student identify his or her own theme, led by a sense of curiosity. Students must “own” the project and make it theirs.

***Step 2 - Identify a role model, mentor or field expert who has learned a second language.*** This role model will serve as the case for the student to study.

***Step 3 - Conduct a study about the role model.*** The purpose is to understand how language learning affected the expert's life and work, helping to develop a deeper understanding of themselves and others.

***Step 4 - Report back to the class.*** Each student shares what he or her has learned (preferably in the target language) about his or her chosen expert, the languages learned, the process of learning those languages and how language learning influenced that person. This way, students have a chance to share what they learned with others, engage in discussions about language learning and also learn about subject matter experts in a variety of fields.

***Step 5 - Write a reflection.*** How did the study change the student's understanding of his or her role model, of language learning, and of the student's own (hopefully increased) motivation to continue to be an active and lifelong language learner.

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