

induction and cord ceremony

cérémonie d'installation et de cordons

5- or 6-candle ceremony with a focus on *la francophonie*
Heidi Rice (*Mme Riz*), Hickory, NC

pre-induction

- slideshow of students
- Francophone / Manie musicale music

welcome

Good evening! *Bonsoir !*

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the ceremony of induction and honor cords for the *Société Honoraire de Français!*

It is also my honor to introduce our honored guest(s): _____.

honor society

The French Honor Society aims to stimulate interest in the study of French, to promote high standards of scholarship, to reward scholastic achievements, to create enthusiasm for and an understanding of Francophone cultures, and to promote international friendship. We are chartered by our national parent organization, the American Association of Teachers of French.

In this, our [number] year of the [chapter name], we are welcoming new members who have met the national standards of _____ and who have met our chapter standards of _____. We are also celebrating students who are already members and seniors who will be receiving their honor cords.

flags

You will notice that there are two flags for this ceremony.

The blue, white, and red flag of France represents the mother country of this beautiful language and the world's number one tourist destination.

The flag with the multicolored circle is the flag of the International Organization of Francophone Countries. Many people are surprised to learn that French is not limited primarily to France and Canada. In fact, the International Francophone Organization currently has 61 member states and 27 observers, for a total of 88

states connected in different ways to the French language and the international Francophone values. The concept of this organization was envisioned by Léopold Senghor, the first president of Sénégal.

There are currently over 300 million people who speak French, and according to an estimate in *Forbes* magazine, there are expected to be 750 million speakers of French by 2050. Many people are also surprised to learn that 55% of the people who speak French do not live in Europe; rather, the continent of Africa claims the title for the greatest percentage of French speakers in the world.

French is greatly enriched by contributions from all the Francophone cultures. It is a growing global language, and it is valuable for connecting diverse countries through a common language and common goals. It is a language of business, art, cooking, fashion, science, and math. It is called the language of love. And we celebrate not just the mother country of France, but the beauty and cultural wealth of the entirety of *la Francophonie*.

We know from history and personal experience that language and languages can be used both to divide and to unify, both to suppress and to express, both to dominate and to understand. Our goal with language learning at [school] is to always use all our languages as tools for understanding, for connecting, and for lifting one another up.

guest / student speaker(s)

And now it is my honor to invite _____ to share with us.

lighting of candles

notes: The ceremony could use the five colors of the circle or six colors including the white background. The students can read the descriptions as they light their candles.

Would my [officers / candle lighters / whomever!] please join me.

The students will now light [five / six] candles. We are using the colors you see on the international Francophone flag and are suggesting ways that those colors reflect important human values as well as the five goals of the *Société Honoraire de Français*.

optional: _____ will light the white candle.

The white candle represents our common humanity. It represents the goal of enjoying life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as set forth in the US Declaration of Independence. It represents the inherent dignity and the equal rights of all members of the human family set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

_____ will light the purple candle.

Purple signifies transformation, wisdom, and enlightenment. Therefore, we light the purple candle to symbolize our high standards of scholarship and our scholastic achievements. It represents our choice to succeed through our own hard work and honest means and our desire to always grow in wisdom and character.

_____ will light the yellow candle.

Yellow signifies optimism, imagination, and joy. Therefore, we light the yellow candle to symbolize interest in the study of French. It represents our excitement and positive attitude toward increasing our knowledge of the language and the many Francophone cultures.

_____ will light the green candle.

Green signifies youth, generosity, and service. Therefore, we light the green candle to symbolize our service to our school, our community, and beyond. We have achieved success as young people and will strive to continue to be successful and of service throughout our lives.

_____ will light the red candle.

Red signifies excitement and passion. Therefore, we light the red candle to symbolize our enthusiasm for the French language and Francophone cultures. It represents the passion of acquiring another language and of learning to understand other points of view.

_____ will light the blue candle.

Blue signifies peace, harmony, and unity. Therefore, we light the blue candle to symbolize our desire to promote international friendship as well as a strong *esprit du corps* among students of French. It represents our efforts to understand others to help build a more peaceful world.

certificates

I will now present our newest candidates for the *Société Honoraire de Français* and award them their certificates. This ceremony is one of my favorite moments of the entire year because I get to take a minute to celebrate each of my students individually outside the classroom. I won't hit all their strengths and achievements, but they are such excellent people that I do want to take this opportunity to share at least some of the reasons why they are so outstanding! After I give you your certificate, you may form a line to the side.

It is my honor to award a certificate from the *Société Honoraire de Français* under the auspices of the American Association of Teachers of French to. . .

[name & outstanding qualities / achievements of each new member]

baguette knighting

Inspired by another teacher,* we added the fun tradition of knighting our new members. . . with a baguette. . . which will not be harmed in the process! We shall respect the bread! I shall therefore perform the official baguette knighting ceremony of the *Société Honoraire de Français* of [chapter]!

À tous ici présents et à toutes ici présentes, sachez que ces élèves extraordinaires après avoir été reconnu.e.s pour ses longs et honorables services dans les activités de français sont par la présente admis comme Chevalier distingué ou admise comme Chevalière distinguée dans l'Ordre du chapitre de [lycée] de la Société Honoraire de Français. (Taper l'épaule droite, puis l'épaule gauche.)

Please congratulate this outstanding group of newly knighted members!

Students, you may be seated.

continuing members

I would also like to recognize the members who were inducted previously for their continued contributions because I am so proud of them as well! Those who continue to meet the national and chapter expectations will receive their honor cords as seniors. Please come up to be recognized and then form a line to the side.

[name & outstanding qualities / achievements of each continuing member]

Please give this outstanding group a round of applause!

Students, you may be seated.

honor cords

There are [number] senior members of the *Société Honoraire de Français* who have met the requirements to earn an honor cord this year to wear to graduation! Students, please come up when I call your name. After I give you your cord, you may form a line to the side.

[name & outstanding qualities / achievements of each senior – including Seal of Biliteracy, if applicable]

Please join me in congratulating these fantastic seniors!

Students, you may be seated.

congratulations

So, my charge to all of you is:

- Continue to use and strengthen your French.
- Let French help you make connections with new people.
- Let French take you places.
- Use your language and cultural skills to promote understanding, communication, and cooperation wherever you are and whatever future path you choose.
- Live with the Francophone *joie de vivre* !

It has truly been an honor and a pleasure to work with such amazing students. Parents and guardians, thank you so much for supporting them in their studies and raising them to be caring, motivated, confident young people.

Seniors, I will really miss you, but I am so excited to watch your journeys unfold and to celebrate your positive contributions to our communities and our world. Thank you again to [speaker(s)] for sharing your insights and to _____ for kindly providing refreshments!

My heart is full, and I know yours are as well, with such wonderful students here in our midst! As they say in New Orleans, *Laissez les bons temps rouler* !

Félicitations on your accomplishments! Je vous aime !

Will all the students—new, continuing, and seniors—please come back up for several different group photos. Family and friends are welcome to take pictures as well!

post-induction

- group photos
- slideshow of students
- Francophone music
- reception

* Credit goes to Jennifer Louise from the AATF SHF / JAF Facebook group! You may also want to see the beautiful and artistic invitation she shared!