In school, only 20% of all American students enjoy learning a second language. [A bold start, setting the tone for your argument!] You likely are one of that 80% of all Americans. Today I am going to explain to you why you should learn a second language, no matter if you want to or not by going through three fields, how you can speak to more people, how it boosts your cross-cultural understanding, and how it boosts your career opportunities and your salary. [Brilliant vocab, and a really clear introduction!]

My first reason for why you should learn a second language is that by learning a new language, you get to speak to more people. First, when you speak with someone in their native language, you gain a much better understanding of how others ~~felt~~ [feel] and think. This is important since by understanding how others ~~felt~~ [feel] and think, you get to speak using a tone that the person you are speaking to likes. Secondly, from cross-cultural [I like this phrase, ‘cross-cultural’!] friendships, broader career opportunities, exciting travel adventures, and deeper insights into how others see the world can be realized. If you have a good friend in another country, they might invite you to visit their country. That is how you can learn so much more from them. Finally, you get to speak to more people by, well, knowing their language. By learn Mandarin and you can speak with more than a billion people worldwide. By learning Hindi and you can speak to another 650 million people. Spanish? Will get you approximately another 420 million.[Really lovely statistics, these really emphasise the scale of these languages!] If you already speak English, you would almost be able to speak to half the world’s population.

[I would leave a bigger space between paragraphs, to make it clearer for your reader!]
Secondly, people should learn a second language because it boosts one’s cultural understanding. First, I want to point out the fact that language and culture are so connected that learning a foreign language both builds cultural understanding and provides deep insights into how other people see the world. [Really sophisticated language here] That is important because we build empathy with that person and get to know what they feel. Secondly, different languages can build your brain in different ways. In some languages, geographic coordinates – north, south, east, and west – are used to describe the location of something, never subjective terms like left and right. Not surprisingly, speakers of those languages have exceptional spatial navigation abilities. [Again, your language is impeccable!] Thirdly, learning languages provides a view of cultural traditions that helped shape a language. For example, in Chinese, there are different words for relatives depending on whether they are on the mother or father’s side and their birth order. Why is that? Well, historically in China, this conveyed important information about a person’s social status. [Could you end your paragraphs with a tiny line just tying it back to the question?]

Finally, people should learn a second language because it will boost your job opportunity and your salary. It is that way because many jobs in education, healthcare, social work, national security, translation, tourism, and international business [this use of listing is so persuasive; it highlights just how much of a benefit this is] require or favor candidates who are bilingual, resulting in more job opportunities for those who can speak a second language. Secondly, speaking a foreign language can make it easier to be eligible for jobs, internships, and work-study programs in other countries – especially if you have critical skills. Thirdly,[instead of using words like ‘firstly, secondly…’, you could try to expand this vocab more, using words like ‘furthermore’ and ‘subsequently’] It also boosts one’s salary when one found a job: researchers found that an extra year of general education yielded an 8% to 14% increase in earnings. [brilliant statistics] Computer and information systems managers, which require intensive computer science education, are one of the highest-earning jobs according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, with a median pay of more than $125,000 a year in 2014.

So, we talked about how by learning a second language, you get to speak to more people, boost your cross-culture understanding, and boost your career opportunities and salaries. So what do you think about learning a second language? [very compelling rhetorical question!] I don’t enjoy learning a third language(Chinese is my native language, English is my second, French is my third) since I found it extremely difficult and hard to understand. But after research, I found that it has some major benefits later in your lives. [Lovely personal anecdote, however I would have mentioned this right at the start, and maybe showed your changing opinion throughout!]

**What Went Well:**

-Your vocabulary and phrasing is extremely sophisticated. I especially like lines like, ‘that learning a foreign language both builds cultural understanding and provides deep insights into how other people see the world’. This high-level writing makes it sound like you know exactly what you’re talking about, making you even more convincing!

-You use some brilliant statistics and facts, such as all of your statistics on the job market and benefits of learning languages for that field. This transforms your essay from an opinion, to facts backed up by science. So persuasive!!

-I like that you use a lot of direct address, and even a personal anecdote at the end!

**Even Better If…:**

-The structure of your essay is perfect, however make sure that you separate out your paragraphs to keep them clear. Also, to develop your essay skills, you can end all of your main paragraphs with a sentence that just links back to the question. This helps to retain focus!

-I mentioned this above, but try to use more high-level connectives, such as ‘furthermore’ and ‘additionally’, rather than ‘firstly, secondly, thirdly…’ etc

-I’d love to see you inserting even more persuasive techniques, as this essay is very good at the factual side, but you have to remember that ultimately this is creative writing, so you can use imagery, or the power of three! Including a few of these techniques will elevate your writing even further!