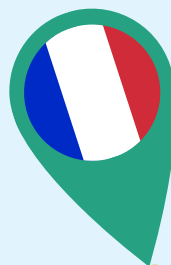


# SO, YOU'RE HOSTING A STUDENT FROM FRANCE.



Print &  
Stick Me  
On The  
Fridge!



## Thank you for hosting with AYA!

We understand that this is not only a very exciting time for you, but you may also be feeling nervous. Fear not! **Here are some helpful hints to help make your year a successful one.** *(Please note: while this information is mostly typical of a culture, it does not apply to all students. Every personality is different, so keep that in mind!)*

### Please be Aware...

French students are used to debating ideas openly, even with adults. This can come across as argumentative, but it's a sign of intellectual engagement. Try to model respectful disagreement.

France is a secular society, and students may have a more reserved or philosophical approach to religion. Respect their views, and avoid assuming they practice any specific faith.

## 1 Direct Communication

French students are often articulate and comfortable expressing their ideas — sometimes in a direct manner that may feel overly blunt by American standards. This isn't meant to offend; clarity and intellectual honesty are valued in French culture, especially among teens.

## 2 Connected, Yet Independent

French students are used to checking in with their parents daily but are also quite independent. It's common for teens to navigate public transit on their own, spend time with friends in cafés, or travel short distances without adult supervision.

## 3 Academics

The French school system is demanding. Students are used to long days (often until 5–6 p.m.), heavy workloads, and formal relationships with teachers. Your student may be surprised by the more relaxed tone and emphasis on participation in U.S. schools.

## 4 Food Habits

Mealtime is important in France. They may be surprised by fast meals takeout, or eating on the go.

## 5 Punctuality

Punctuality is important in formal contexts, but social gatherings can be more flexible. Your student may expect a bit more relaxed timing than Americans are used to — especially for informal events.