

Crossings Reflection: Zora Williams

After my four years at Stanford, one thing is for sure: majoring in French was one of the best decisions of my life. It allowed me to access an entire new world of opportunities, people, food and history. With French, I have been able to mold a new and more authentic identity for myself. I now see French as a core part of who I am and who I want to be. French must be an integral part of my career and I must have a life that reaches beyond the United States' borders. French also helps me access my past by connecting with communities of the African Diaspora, especially those in the Caribbean and West and Central Africa. Furthermore, throughout my French studies I have been able to view my identity as a Black American through a diverse pan African lens allowing me to situate myself within the Black Atlantic world. The plurality of the Black Diaspora has been revealed to me through my French studies within which I've been able to substantiate and validate my own identity. Thus, French does not only hold an academic or utilitarian value for me but something much deeper. I have realized that I am not me without French. It has truly been a vessel of self-transformation, discovery and introspection.

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Moving forward from Stanford, I will be spending time in Paris for 3-6 months before starting a business role at Google. After two years, I plan to pursue my career as a lawyer in international business.

- Zora Williams