This is my preferred way to upgrade PHP to 5.2 from the default 5.1.6 on CentOS 5.

You need to be root.

1) Make a reference to the CentOS5 Testing repo

Create the file /etc/yum.repos.d/centos-test.repo and put the following lines in it.

[c5-testing] name=CentOS-5 Testing baseurl=http://dev.centos.org/centos/5/testing/\$basearch/ enabled=0 gpgcheck=1 gpgkey=http://dev.centos.org/centos/RPM-GPG-KEY-CentOS-testing

2) Update php using yum as follows

 $yum \ \ \ -enablerepo=c5-testing \ update \ php$