

LOCNESS description

LOCNESS contains

149,574 words of argumentative essays written by American university students

18,826 words of literary-mixed essays written by American university students

95,695 words of argumentative and literary essays written by British university students

60,209 words of British A-level argumentative essays.

BRITISH ESSAYS: University students

I. brsur1.cor - 59,568 words

March 1991

+ 500 words

Exams

1) **15 essays** on 'French Intellectual tradition' - codes 1-15 - 41,439 words

-**literary** (Camus, Sartre, 'Oreste', 'La Chute', 'Caligula', 'Les Justes' etc.)

2) **18 essays** on 'French Society and Institutions' - codes 16-33 - 18,129 words

-**expository - historical** (French higher education, French constitution, unionism in France, presidentialism, demography)

II. brsur2.cor - 17,108 words

+500 words

Exams

24 essays on 'French Intellectual Tradition'

-**literary** (Most of them: Voltaire: 'Candide' - philosophical optimism, Rousseau - 'Discours sur l'origine de l'inégalité' nr 8 and 20, Montesquieu 'De l'esprit de loi' nr 14)

-nr7 - 17th century scientific revolution

III. brsur3.cor - 19,019 words

33 argumentative essays on 'A single Europe: A loss of sovereignty for Britain'

500 words

Not exams

Not rigidly timed - +/- 1 hour

No reference tools used

IV A levels

60,209 words of British A-level argumentative essays.

Transport, boxing, parliamentary system, fox hunting

AMERICAN ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAYS

argumentative essays: 149,574 words (usarg.txt)

<u>Marquette University</u> (codes: ICLE-US-MRQ-0001.1-46.1)

54,285 words

46 essays

March 1995

Untimed essays

+ 500 words

Argumentative

Reference tools used

All students are fully English native speakers. (both parents with English mother tongue)

Age: from 18 to 21 (+ 1 of 30, 1 of 31 and 1 of 40)

Topics:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -euthanasia -controversy in the classroom -capital punishment -does affirmative action work? -yoga -nuclear power -values and consequences of school interaction -pride or segregation -surrogate motherhood -can we afford wellness -prozac: the wonder drug -homosexuality -animal testing -prayer in schools -praying for a miracle | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -sex equality -teenagers -aids -orphanages -profit: good or evil -freedom of the press -sex in schools -welfare reforms needs a return to family values -the cost of grass -abortion -ethics -would anyone care for a drink -cheating in colleges -O.J Simpson -suicide |
|--|---|

<u>Indiana University at Indianapolis</u> (codes: ICLE-US-IND-0001.1-28.1)

13,454 words

28 essays

March 1995

Timed essays ??

Argumentative

Reference tools used ??

All students are fully English native speakers .

Age: from 22 to 48

Topics:

- Money is the root of all evil
- Crime does not pay
- A man / woman's financial reward should be commensurate with their contribution to the society in which they live
- Feminists have done more harm to the cause of women than good

<u>Presbyterian College, South Carolina (codes: ICLE-US-PRB-0034.2-39.2)</u>

12,447 words

1) **6 lengthy (+ 500) essays**

April 1995

Untimed essays

Argumentative (cd. note below)

Reference tools used (library documentation - books, journals)

All students are fully English native speakers.

Age: from 20 to 22

Topics:

- Adolescent suicide
- Water pollution
- Legalization of marijuana
- Homelessness
- The welfare system
- Divorce

NB: these issues are discussed from the point of view of the structural functionalist, conflict, exchange, symbolic interactionist theories

<u>University of South Carolina</u>
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I. usscu1.cor - 5,710 words

6 essays

April 1995

Untimed essays (??)

+ 500 words

Argumentative

Reference tools used (??) - 'works cited' section for nr 2?, 4 and 5 (library books, articles)

All students are fully English native speakers except for nr3 .NL not specified, mother's and father's mother tongue = Yorube, nationality: Nigerian, home: 99% English, 1% Yorube)

Age: from 17 to 20 (+ 1 of 34 - nr5 - and 1 of 66 - nr 7)

Topic:

-gender roles in our society (all but nr 1 - 'football')

II. usscu2.cor - 18,630 words**17 essays**

November/December 95

Timed essays?

+ 500 words

Argumentative

Reference tools used? (ref. for nr 11 and 12)

All students are fully English native speakers

Age: 18-19 (most), 28

Topics:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| -The Confederate Flag | --Salary caps |
| -Rules and regulations | -Sex in the Media |
| -Death penalty | -Euthanasia |
| -Legalization of marijuana | -Gender roles, feminism, etc. |
| -Teachers deserve recognition and reward | -US government |

III. ususc3.cor - 15,815 words**13 essays**

Novemeber/December 1995

Untimed essays

+ 500 words

Argumentative

Reference tools used - all? (books, magazines)

All students are fully English native speakers

Age: 17-19 (no age for nr4)

Topics:

- | | |
|--|--|
| -Premarital sex | -Violence on television |
| -Football | -Gun control |
| -Drinking age | -Portrayal of women in fashion magazines |
| -Talk shows | -Recycling |
| -Professors that don't speak English shouldn't teach English speaking students | -The wild card and its effect on Baseball |
| | -Journalists should not reveal their sources |

-Welfare

IV. usscu4.cor - 12,730 words

17 essays

November 1995

Untimed essays

Argumentative

+ 500 words (except for nr17)

No reference tools used (except for nr 5, 14 and 15)

All students are fully English native speakers

Age: 17-21, nr1=39, nr12=57, nr16=41

Topics:

-Women in combat

-Rules

-Sink or Swim

-Early are drinking

-Should the Browns stay in Cleveland?

-Curfew

-Government support for the Arts

-Abortion

-Stereotyping the colours pink and blue

-Capital punishment

-The media's right to know

-Emerging women

-Legalization of marijuana

-Bookbanning in America

-Frivolous lawsuits

University of Michigan (codes: ICLE-US-MICH-0001.1-45.1)

43 essays (16,502 words)

Timed essays

- 500 words

Argumentative

No reference tools used

All students are fully English native speakers (except for - nr23: NL=Engl, father=Spanish, mother=Spanish and Engl, home=Spanish 30-50%; nr24: NL=Engl/French, father=Engl, mother=Fr, home=Fr 50%; nr34: NL=Engl, father=Engl/Sp, mother=Engl, home=Sp 25%)

Age: 19-23

Topic: Great inventions and discoveries of 20th century and their impact on people's lives (one per interview - computer, television, etc.)

AMERICAN LITERARY-MIXED ESSAYS

literary-mixed: 18,826 words (usmixed.txt)

Presbyterian College, South Carolina

I. usprb1.cor - 18,826 words

1) **16 essays** - codes 1 to 17 (no nr 7-lost) (8 students produced 2 essays each) (**9,296 words**)

April 1995

Timed essays (exams)

Mixed: about literature but most are rather argumentative (cf. instruction sheet, 'I will prove', 'I firmly believe')

No reference tools used

7 students are fully English native speakers

1 : mother's mother tongue: Greek

Language spoken at home: English 80 % , Greek 20 %

Age: from 19 to 22

Topic:

-An Aspect of Studying Ethnic American Literature

2) **8 essays** codes 18-25 (**4,436 words**)

February 1995

Timed essays

- 500 words

Literary (NB: 'persuasive essay' on instruction sheet attached to the essays but literary!!!)

Reference tools used

All students are fully English native speakers.

Age: from 18 to 21

Topics:

- Who is Hamlet ?

- What is an appropriate label for Voltaire's Candide ?

3) **32 essays** codes 26-33 (**5,094 words**) (8 students produced 4 essays each)

April 1995

Timed essays (exams - social psychology tests)

- 500 words

Not really argumentative, answers to 5 exam questions (cf. topics below)

No reference tools used.

All students are fully English native speakers (exception: one student : Spanish speaking mother but language spoken at home = English)

Age: from 18 to 21

Topic:

-Aspects of Social Psychology: 1 § on homicide, 1 § on racial prejudice, 1 § on formation of sound personal relationships, conformity, etc. - not very incoherent and in some §, reference to what the client should do ('I would advise our client to').