

IN SEARCH OF A THIRD PLACE

**A TELECOLLABORATIVE MODEL FOR
LANGUACULTURE LEARNING**

**PRESENTED IN FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF**

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

**SCHOOL OF APPLIED LANGUAGE AND INTERCULTURAL
STUDIES**

DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY

JUNE 2004

SUPERVISOR: DR. MARGARET GIBBON

VOLUME TWO OF TWO

DECLARATION

I hereby certify that this material, which I now submit for assessment on the programme of study leading to the award of Doctor of Philosophy is entirely my own work and has not been taken from the work of others save and to the extent that such work has been cited and acknowledged within the text of my work.

Signed..... *A. M. Goursès : Hayward*

ID No..... 97970522

Date..... 15/06/2004

APPENDICES

APPENDIX II - QUESTIONNAIRE CULTURAL AWARENESS
1997 – 1998, 1998-1999 ADMINSTERED AFTER THE COURSE

- 1) Please write a paragraph about your own cultural/ethnographical background, parents'/grandparents' nationalities, place of birth, countries lived in etc.
- 2) What is /are your first language (s)?
- 3) What other languages do you speak fluently?
- 4) What other languages do you speak well?
- 5) What other languages do you speak at an intermediate or lower level?
- 6) When speaking a foreign language, do you feel different from when you are speaking your first language - give details if possible.
- 7) How would you describe your personality? (quiet/outgoing/extrovert/introvert etc.)
- 8) What do the following mean to you personally?
 - a) Home
 - b) The U.S.A.
 - c) French students
 - d) American students
 - e) The French language
 - f) The English Language
- 9) From what you remember of the level 5 lessons, put the following in order of preference, with 1 for your First choice and 9 for your last choice.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| The Home Page | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Videoconference 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Videoconference 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Presenting "Evidences Invisibles" | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Devising and administering questionnaire on "Evidences Invisibles" | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Remakes - 3 Hommes et un Couffin | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Remakes - 9 Mois | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Spiceboys or Making a Film | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Children's Books | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Writing to "keyboard pals" | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- 10) What would you add or remove if you were designing a course for new students?

Thanks very much for taking the time to fill in this questionnaire.

APPENDIX III- QUESTIONNAIRE CULTURAL AWARENESS 1998 –1999, 1999-2000

- 1) Please write a paragraph about your own cultural/ethnographical background, parents'/grandparents' nationalities, place of birth, countries lived in etc.
- 2) What is /are your first language (s) ?
- 3) What other languages do you speak fluently?
- 4) What other languages do you speak well?
- 5) What other languages do you speak at an intermediate or lower level?
- 6) When speaking a foreign language, do you feel different from when you are speaking your first language - give details if possible.
- 7) How would you describe your personality? (quiet/outgoing/extrovert/introvert etc.)
- 8) What do the following mean to you personally?
 - a) Home
 - b) The U.S.A.
 - c) French students
 - d) American students
 - e) The French language
 - f) The English Language

Thanks very much for taking the time to fill in this questionnaire.

ADMINSTERED BEFORE COURSE

APPENDIX IV – QUESTIONNAIRE ON VIDEOCONFERENCE March 1998 / April 1999

Please answer these questions as fully as possible. Thank-you.

Name (optional)

Group

1) Had you participated actively in a videoconference before? (if yes, please give details)

Please complete the sentences:

2) My overall impression of the video conference was:

3) The answer to the question I asked during the videoconference was:

Which answers reflect your feeling most closely? Tick the appropriate box:

4) When I asked my question in the foreign language:

- a) I was much more inhibited than in class
- b) I was a little more inhibited than in class
- c) I was much less inhibited than in class
- d) I was much less inhibited than in class
- e) I felt the same as I do in class

5) When I answered the question in my own language:

- a) I felt completely at ease
- b) I felt a little nervous at the beginning
- c) I felt a little nervous all through
- d) I felt extremely nervous at the beginning
- e) I felt extremely nervous all through

6) During the videoconference:

- a) I concentrated more than I do in class
- b) I concentrated less than I do in class
- c) I concentrated as much (or as little!) as I do in class

7) When answering the question in my own language:

- a) I felt I was giving my own point of view which did not necessarily represent a "French" or "American" view.
- b) I felt I was giving my own point of view which did, in my opinion, represent a "French" or "American" view.
- c) I felt I was giving a generalised point of view which did not necessarily reflect my own view.
- d) I tried to give my own point of view and a more general view.
- e) other (please specify).....

8) The amount of teacher intervention was:

- a) the same as in class
- b) more than in class
- c) far more than in class
- d) less than in class
- e) far less than in class

Comment on your answer

APPENDIX V - EXAMPLE OF FRENCH SYLLABUS

PLAN FOR LEVEL 5 FIRST YEAR

- 1) Perception - individual versus culturally biased
Semantics: categorisation -
 - Growth of the concept of categories in the child.
 - Categories of animals - cultural or universal ?
 - Division of the colour space (examples from 3 African languages : gouro, baoulé, mooré)
 - 3D pictures
 -  First contact with American students at Midwest University by e-mail.
 -  Prepare Home Page with biographical details of each student.

- 2) *Les Evidences Invisibles* by Raymonde Carroll ed : Editions du Seuil mai 1987
 - Cross-cultural differences between the French and Americans.
 - *La Maison, Parents-enfants, l'Amitié, le Téléphone, le "Petit Accident"*.
 - Present one chapter in groups.
 - Prepare survey about one aspect for French and Americans.

- 3) *3 Hommes et un Couffin /3 men and a Baby*
 - Scene with nappy (diaper)
 - Scene with Grandmothers. How are the scenes similar/ different? What is the humour based on?
 - Analysing the attitude to the police and the drug dealers.

- 4) *9 Mois/ 9 Months*
 - Scene with the lunchtime party. Treatment of the "baby bores". Childhood and adolescence
 - The two gynaecologists -comparing racial attitudes. The source of humour.
 - Degree of realism. Action versus analysis.

- 5) Videoconference between here and Midwest University to discuss the above (see agenda)

- 6) *Children's Books*
 - Look at your own books from your formative years- analysis of world view.
 - American / English books
 - Classics - Survey on la Fontaine in *Le Figaro Magazine, La Chèvre de Monsieur Seguin ..*
 -  Book reviews by both groups added to the Home Page.

- 7) Soap operas - French and American - *Beverly Hills, Friends, Hélène et les Garçons* etc.

- 8) Videoconference between here and Missouri to discuss the above (see agenda)

- 9) Comparison of advertisements French Telecomm / American.

- 10) Making a remake.

- 11) Visit by Dr.Solange Richards.

APPENDIX VI - EXAMPLE OF AMERICAN SYLLABUS - MIDWEST UNIVERSITY

Français 326 Printemps 1999

Professeur Solange Richards

Téléphone: XXXX

e-mail: solange@

heures de bureau:

mardi et jeudi 10:45- 12

POLICY STATEMENT

Description du cours:

Ce cours est offert à des étudiants de troisième année (ou l'équivalent) qui désirent mieux connaître la culture française contemporaine. Le cours comportera des lectures, des discussions et des analyses de textes et films illustrant les contrastes et comparaisons possibles entre les cultures américaines et françaises. Un échange de courrier électronique et des visioconférences internationales aura lieu avec un groupe d'étudiants d'anglais langue seconde inscrits à l'ENST Bretagne. Ce contact avec des "locuteurs natifs" permettra aux étudiants d'approfondir leurs connaissances en discussion avec d'autres étudiants qui s'intéressent à la culture américaine.

Participation

L'assistance aux cours est obligatoire. L'instructeur relève les absences et signalera à l'étudiant ayant accumulé trop d'absences qu'il compromet la réussite de son cours. Si un étudiant se voit dans l'impossibilité assister à un cours, il devra s'informer auprès de son instructeur (ou d'un camarade de classe) du travail donné pour le cours suivant.

Manuel

Wylie et Brière, 1995. Les Français. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall

Evaluation

L'évaluation comprend:

- travaux dirigés d'analyse, devoirs, exercices en classe (30%)
- participation à l'échange par e-mail et visioconférence (20%)
- projet final (30%)
- examens (20%)

Absence policy

As required by the university, daily attendance will be taken and excessive (more than 3) absences reported. You are expected to attend and to participate. If you must be absent, don't return to class unprepared: call someone or consult your syllabus.

Plagiarism and cheating

Plagiarism or cheating will result in a grade of F for the task in question (exam or paper).

Exam dates and make ups

See the syllabus. LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED! To get credit if you are ill, etc. please arrange to have a friend deliver your assignment to my office. Exams and homework will cover the material currently under consideration in class and possibly previously covered items as well. Detailed instructions about assignments and exams will be given in class. There are no make-up quizzes or assignments. Without either a doctor's or a dean's written excuse, up to a ten point penalty may be imposed on a missed exam and a 0 grade given on a quiz. If you miss an exam and have not contacted me before the next class, I must assume you do not plan to take the exam and will enter a grade of 0. Should you suffer an extended illness, please phone me or leave a message on my office voice mail.

Final grade calculations

90 - 100 % A, etc. Final exam. The final exam is comprehensive, but will stress the last chapters. Please arrange for rides home, jobs, etc. AFTER the final exam.

ADA Statement

Midwest University makes reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Please see the instructor if you need reasonable accommodation.

Student Concerns Board

There is a departmental committee, chaired by Professor R. D., expressly dedicated to students' academic concerns. Should a difficulty arise with respect to your class that has not been resolved

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through direct contact with your professor, you may approach Professor R.D. Midwest University is a community of people with respect for diversity. The University emphasizes the dignity and equality common to all persons and adheres to a strict nondiscriminatory policy regarding the treatment of individual faculty, staff and students. Inquiries concerning the grievance procedure, Affirmative Action Plan, or compliance with federal and state laws and guidelines should be addressed to Affirmative Action Officer, Office of Human Resources

Emploi du temps

(pourrait changer selon les exigences de l'échange, horaires des visioconférences, etc.)

- le 12 janvier Introduction au cours, premier devoir:
Envoyer deux e-mails: aux professeurs en France
Présentez-vous!
- le 14 janvier Devoir: Lire Wylie et Brière pp. 1-10, Ecrivez une page sur l'image de la France et les stéréotypes des français aux Etats-Unis (e.g., Pepe le Pew, Maurice Chevalier)
le 19 janvier Points de vue américains sur la France
- le 21 janvier Points de vue français sur l'espace
- le 26 janvier Points de vue français sur le temps
- le 28 janvier Suite
- le 2 février Points de vue français sur la nature humaine
- le 4 février Suite
- le 9 février Points de vue français sur le corps
Devoir: In the French Body laserdisk
- le 11 février In the French Body
- le 16 février Enfance et première éducation
- le 18 février Suite
- le 23 février Socialisation et modes d'évasion
- le 25 février Suite
- le 2 mars Démographie et intervention de l'Etat
- le 4 mars La famille française aujourd'hui
- le 9 mars Révision
- le 11 mars Examen
- le 13- 21 mars - vacances
- le 23 mars Droit, loi, justice
- le 25 mars Le gouvernement
- le 30 mars L'administration
- le 1 avril L'enseignement CONT until May 6th

APPENDIX VII -EXAMPLE OF AMERICAN SYLLABUS - EAST UNIVERSITY

Français 402 W Composition et grammaire avancées

Printemps, 1999 le mardi et le jeudi 11h15 – 12h30

Mme. Solange Richards Heures de consultation: le mardi 10H – 11H et le jeudi 12h45 – 13h45

Ouvrage obligatoire:

Limouzy, Pierre et Bourgeacq, Jacques, Manuel de composition française (Deuxième édition). McGraw Hill, 1990.

Ouvrages fortement recommandés: (à trouver dans la bibliothèque Patee, dans les librairies à East University ou à Schoenhof's Foreign Books à Boston [<http://www.schoenhofs.com>] ou téléphonez au 617 547-8855)

- un bon dictionnaire français-anglais/ anglais-français (Harper Collins, Robert)
- un bon dictionnaire français (Larousse illustrée, MicroRobert, Petit Robert)
- un dictionnaire de verbes (Bescherelle, Barron's)

Description et objectifs du cours:

Ce cours, obligatoire pour les "major" et "minor" en français, a pour buts:

- de vous inviter et inciter à développer une voix francophone et un style personnel en français parlé et surtout écrit.
- de vous inciter à examiner votre propre processus d'écrire en français sur et sous une variété de sujets et de formes rhétoriques
- de vous engager dans la discussion et l'analyse des textes de vos collègues, en France et aux Etats-Unis, en même temps obtenant leur perspective critique de votre travail
- de vous aider à approfondir vos connaissances en vocabulaire et grammaire françaises

Dans le cadre d'un échange par Internet avec une classe parallèle en France (les étudiants d'anglais et de culture américaine de l'Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Télécommunications de Bretagne), vous serez invité à faire la connaissance d'un groupe de jeunes français, et à travailler en collaboration avec eux.

Composition de la note finale:

Compositions	40%
Participation et préparation	20%
Devoirs et interrogations	20%
Projet final	20%

Participation et préparation: Votre préparation, présence et participation sont de première importance: en ceci, vous avez une responsabilité envers toute la classe pour le bon fonctionnement du cours. En cas d'urgence, veuillez téléphoner et au professeur et aux personnes avec lesquelles vous ailliez travailler ce jour-là pour nous prévenir de votre absence. Votre participation à l'échange par Internet contribuera également à votre note finale.

Devoirs et interrogations: Les devoirs, notamment les exercices faits dans le manuel du cours, seront à tout moment susceptibles d'être corrigés et constitueront un élément important de la préparation.

Projet final: Le but du projet final est de présenter un aspect de la culture "américaine" (y compris les interprétations locales de la culture "française") susceptible d'intéresser le groupe d'étudiants dans la classe parallèle en France. La forme de ce projet est au choix de l'étudiant, mais pourrait être un essai, une dissertation littéraire, ou un projet multimédia.

Compositions: Les sujets de compositions seront tirés de nos travaux et discussions en cours. Elles seront évaluées selon les critères marquées ci-dessous:

- les idées et la réflexion critique représentées
- l'organisation des idées et la présence de bonnes transitions entre paragraphes, aussi bien qu'une bonne introduction et conclusion
- la présentation claire des arguments principaux et le bon choix d'exemples qui soutiennent les arguments (surtout dans le cas de l'analyse textuelle)
- la présence d'une variété d'expressions, de vocabulaire, et de structures grammaticales
- la vérification de l'orthographe, de la conjugaison, des accents, etc.

Toute composition devra être dactylographiée avec double-interligne.

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Pour les ateliers de révision en classe, veuillez apporter quatre (4) exemplaires de votre composition pour partager avec vos collègues.

DATE	EN COURS	DEVOIRS
Emploi du temps (sujet aux modifications):		
24 août	Introduction au cours	Je me présente-petite composition à rendre le 26 août
26 août	Discuter le plan du cours	Exercices de dictionnaire
31 août	La description	Exercices: MCF, pp. 20-22 Lire Carroll, R. <<La maison>> (distribué en cours)
2 septembre	Description d'une maison	Premier brouillon pour votre description d'une maison
7 septembre	Atelier de révision	Faites vos révisions
9 septembre	Description d'une maison à rendre	Exercices, MCF, pp. 39-41 A- D
14 septembre	Description d'un monument	Premier brouillon pour votre description d'un monument
16 septembre	Atelier de révisions	Faites vos révisions
21 septembre	Description d'un monument à rendre	Exercices: MCF, pp. 65
23 septembre	Le portrait	Exercices: MCF, pp. 67-71
28 septembre	Le portrait	Premier brouillon du portrait
30 septembre	Atelier de révision	Faites vos révisions
5 octobre	Portrait à rendre	Exercices, MCF, pp. 82 – 86,
7 octobre	La narration	Exercices, MCF, pp. 90 - 94
12 octobre:	jour férié (Fall Break)	
14 octobre	La narration	Exercices (aspect des verbes au passé)
19 octobre	La narration	Premier brouillon de la narration
21 octobre	Atelier de révision	Faites vos révisions
26 octobre	Narration à rendre	La comparaison, compte rendu d'un film A regarder: Un film français et son remake américain
28 octobre	La comparaison	Exercices photocopiés
2 novembre	La comparaison	Premier brouillon du compte rendu
4 novembre	Atelier de révision	Faites vos révisions
9 novembre	Compte rendu à rendre	Lire: poème à imiter, premier brouillon
11 novembre		Poème/ pastiche, atelier de révision Faites vos révisions

APPENDIX VIII EXAMPLE OF WORKSHEET FROM PERCEPTUAL TOOLKIT

CULTURAL MIRRORS - COMMUNICATING ACROSS CULTURES

INTRODUCTION

Categorisation

When children learn first to speak, their language is generalised from a specific experience, for example once they have identified a four legged animal as 'dog', all four legged animals tend to be called dogs. Later in language development, dogs, cats etc are separated into species but kinds of dogs, cats, birds are seen as a separate category, for instance my son aged 3 insisted that a robin was not a bird but a robin, in a class of its own. According to most research, this early categorisation seems to be universal, although not all researchers agree. (See Reading List for work on this subject) Later, however, cultural differences may emerge.

Organisation of the Colour Space

1) Individual Differences

The way we divide the colour space may have cultural origins but agreement on details can differ from one individual to another in a given culture. Where there is agreement on basic colours, when shades such as blue-green or green-blue are defined, individual perceptions may differ. In Western cultures we tend to define basic colours with reference to the electromagnetic spectrum (hue) but even if this division is not arbitrary it is still merely a convention. Colours can also be defined by their degree of luminosity (brilliance or brightness) or saturation (absence or presence of white). We shall see later that certain cultures use the last two criteria to a greater extent.

Activities

a) Look at the picture of the electromagnetic spectrum and try to ascertain exactly where blue begins and green ends.

2) Physical and physiological phenomena

Colour perception clearly has both a physical and physiological side.

a) Look at the binary window. What happens to complementary colours when light is blocked out or let through?

b) Look at these two pictures. Explain what happens when you look at them.

2) Cultural differences and similarities

According to the research carried out by Berlin and Kay (1969) on basic colour terms from 98 languages, there are 11 basic colour terms with a strict hierarchical order. These 98 languages can be divided into 22 linguistic groups, according to which terms they use, group one having only black and white and the last group the colours of the rainbow and black and white. The distribution was organised as shown in the following table but modified in 1975 to include languages which use the same word for blue and green, like Breton or Old Welsh or Mooré, an African language from Burkina Faso. The acquisition of these languages goes from left to right, i.e. if a language has a term for blue then it also has all the terms to the left of blue on the table.

On the other hand, some languages have green without yellow or purple or pink without orange and grey, hence the 22 groups. The American psychologist, Eleanor Rosch, in her research on prototypes and natural categories comes to a similar conclusion (see bibliography) According to Edward Stewart and Milton Bennett in "American Cultural Patterns", the human eye can perceive up to 7, 500, 000 distinguishable colours! If this is true, it is all the more surprising to learn that in some languages there are only 2 or 3 terms for colour, meaning that different cultures have different ways of organising the colour space.

Hierarchical organisation of basic colour terms: Berlin and Kay (1969)

					purple
White	Red	green	Blue	brown	pink
Black		yellow			orange
					grey

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Also, in certain cultures, colour terms have their origins in Nature, like *orange* or *rose* in French. What could be the origins of the terms black, white and red in languages which only have these terms?¹ Do the following colour exercises to see how language colours *your* world.

COLOUR ACTIVITY ONE

Look at the chips on your sheet and put them into the following categories:

Basic Colour Terms	Numbers on colour chips
Black	
White	
Red	
Green	
Yellow	
Blue	
Brown	
Purple	
Pink	
Orange	
Grey	

Compare your findings with a group of other participants with the same chips. Was there any disagreement? If so, where? and why? How did you go about the task? Did you find it difficult? Give reasons for your answer. How did you and other participants classify colours, using hue, brightness or intensity or a combination? What names would you use to classify these colours? Compare them with the others in your group. What conclusions can be drawn from any differences?

COLOUR ACTIVITY TWO

Speakers of Gouro, one of the languages spoken in the Ivory Coast, have three basic terms to classify colours. They are "ti" - black, "fou" - white and "son" - red. Take the same colour chips as before and put them into these three groups.

Gouro Word	Number on colour chips
Ti	
Fou	
Son	

As before, compare your findings with a group of other participants with the same chips. Was there any disagreement? If so, where? and why? How did you go about the task? Did you find it more difficult than the last exercise? Give reasons for your answer. How did you and other participants classify colours, using hue, brightness or intensity or a combination? Did the number of terms available to you change the way you perceived the colours? What difficulties might you have in your culture if you only had these three colour terms? Would another culture have the same difficulties? Try to use only these three terms for the next few days and see to what extent your world has been coloured!

¹ We should bear in mind that many African languages have far more words than we do for kinship terms, no doubt reflecting differences in social organisation, so it is not a question of European languages being more developed, just different.

APPENDIX IX

EXAMPLE OF WORKSHEET USED FOR THE CONCEPTUAL TOOLKIT

Comparison between a French film - *Trois Hommes et un Couffin* and its American remake, *Three Men and A Baby*.

Analysis of two episodes of the film, with reference to relevant chapters of Raymonde Carroll's book 'Evidences Invisibles' / 'Cultural Misunderstandings'.

The diaper/diaper changing scene

1) Before viewing - Discussion in groups

Two men who are close friends sharing an apartment are trying to change a baby's diaper (nappy) for the first time -describe the scene and try to imagine the kind of discussion there might be between them.

2) After watching the two scenes -an analysis of the similarities and differences in the portrayal of a stereotyped situation.

a) Is the basic action in the episode more or less the same?

i) Realisation that the diaper needs changing

ii) Removal of the dirty diaper.

iii) Cleaning the baby.

iv) Putting on a clean diaper

v) Various problems (size of the diaper, baby's reaction)

vi) Putting on second diaper.

vii) Cleaning the sofa.

b) Elements to analyse

i) Degree of realism of the images.

ii) The choice of shot and frame.

iii) Dialogue (contents, language register, comic aspects)

Relationship between the two friends (c.f. Cultural Misunderstandings: Friendship)

3) Jack/Jacques introduces his daughter to his mother in the hope she will look after her.

a) Watch the French and English scene without the sound.

Group A writes the dialogue for the French scene.

Group B writes the dialogue for the English scene.

b) After listening and comparing with your own dialogues, discuss the following:

i) How is the grandmother presented in each film?

ii) What expectations are there of her?

iii) How is she introduced to her granddaughter?

iv) What reaction does she have to her son's demands?

c) Elements to analyse

i) The comic aspects of the episode.

ii) The degree of realism of the attitudes depicted.

iii) The relationships between parent and child (Cultural Misunderstandings)

APPENDIX X - FILM DIALOGUES - Dialogue: Trois hommes et un couffin

Pierre: Merde, mon pantalon ! oh la vache, elle a chié! Attends ! Donne moi ce coton-là.. Mais la lâche pas !

Michel: Bon mais tu prends ce coton toi-même si tu veux pas que je la lâche.

Pierre: Tiens-la, mais tiens-la bon sang !

Michel: Mais t'es marrant toi, elle est hystérique cette gosse.

Pierre: Enlève la serviette, elle est pleine de crottes.

Michel: Mais ça va salir le canapé.

Pierre: Elle se remet tout le temps dedans. Ca colle, cette crotte, ça colle, il faudrait une crème ou quelque chose pour l'enlever.

Michel: De l'after-shave ?

Pierre: Ca va pas, non ? On ne va pas gâcher du Saint-Laurent pour nettoyer ça !

Michel: Bon, on lui met la couche comme ça tant pis.

Pierre: Oui. Le truc collant, ça se met devant ou derrière ?

Michel: Alors là !

Pierre: Tiens-la sous les bras, je vais lui mettre comme ça. Mais qu'est-ce que c'est que ces couches pourries que t'as été prendre. Elles sont beaucoup trop grandes.

Michel: Moi je trouve pas qu'elles soient trop grandes. Plus ça absorbe, mieux c'est !

Pierre: Comment ça marche ces trucs collants-là ? Mais tiens-la bon sang !

Michel: Je fatigue!

Pierre: Voilà, je n'ai pas assez serré maintenant.

Michel: Mais, si on la couchait pour coller ?

Pierre: Bon, essaie, mais pas là-dedans, c'est plein de crottes. Voilà, Mais qu'est-ce que c'est que ce truc, ce bazar-là ? Déjà ils nous emmerdent toute la journée avec leurs pubs à la télé... Regarde-moi ce travail-là. C'est de la merde le matériel. Je colle, ça pendouille, je décolle, scratch la couche est foutue ! Allez, on recommence !

Michel: Oui.

Pierre: Ah non, merde, non elle pisse ! Ah non le canapé ! Quel chameau cette môme. Elle a attendu qu'on enlève la couche pour pisser ! C'est de ta faute aussi, ça ne va pas du tout ces couches-là. T'as été les chercher au rayon mémère ou quoi ? Avec ça, c'est l'inondation garantie. Je tiens à mes meubles, moi. Je vais en chercher d'autres. Tu peux toujours nettoyer le canapé.

Michel : Rayon mémère toi-même

Peter: Just hold her. That's it.

Michael: Wait a minute. Peter, this is a girl. Should we be doing this?

Peter: Michael, just hold her will you? So I can get this diaper off.

Michael and Peter: Oh! Ugh!

Michael: How can something so small create so much of something so disgusting.

Peter: It beats the shit out of me. (almost inaudible) Here! Get me the other diaper.

Michael: Shouldn't we wash her first?

Peter: We'll wash her later. Just... well just, get me the cotton. Come on !

Michael, just give me a little cotton. I don't need a packet, no wait...get....give me the wipies. Give me the cotton wipies. Oh, this is disgusting, it's all over. It's sticky and... We 're gonna need some kind of cleaning fluid to get it off.

Michael: How about after-shave?

Peter: Oh, come on Michael. Just get me one of the diapers. Right now! Do these tapes things go at the front or the back?

Michael: How am I supposed to know? Wow! These diapers are way too big! What size did you get?

Peter: They're ultra-absorbent! -the more absorbent the better, if you ask me. Will you hold her for a minute? The kid's going crazy!

Michael: I don't want to.

Peter: Come on, Michael.

Michael: Hey! Don't pull that so hard. It's gonna rip it.

Peter: I'm not gonna rip it.

Michael: Yes, you are. (The tape rips)

Peter: Right, well, OK! Get another diaper. I'll use the tape from another diaper. I'll tape it up. I'm an architect, for Christ's sake. I build 50 storey sky-scrapers. I assemble cities of the future. I can certainly put together a goddam diaper. Take it easy kid! Right! There, there, see! It's working- piece of cake. Yeah, yeah!

(The diaper falls off)

Michael: Nice job, Pete! (The baby urinates on the sofa.)

Peter: This little insect was just waiting for that diaper to fall off.

Michael: I think we're in trouble.

1) La Fontaine

According to a recent survey in Le Figaro magazine, La Fontaine's fables have entered the popular consciousness in France, staying in the minds of generations of children and bearing a still contemporary message.

a) Name as many fables as you can.

.....
.....
.....

b) Which are your 2 favourites and why?

.....
.....
.....

c) Can you quote part or all of any of the fables?

.....
.....

2) STUDY OF CHILDRENS' BOOKS

Which books made the most impression on you when you were young? If possible, give your reasons.

.....
.....
.....

3) Analyse one French and one American or English book, answering the following questions :

a) Tell the story

b) Who are the main characters ?

Adults female / male	Nationality
Children female/ male	Class
Animals female / male	Colour

c) Activities

Who does what? What roles are played by each character? Who is active?

Who is passive? Is the action abroad, at home, in a town, village, club, small group.

d) What is the underlying message of the book :

Cautionary tales for naughty children - if you do this, this is what will happen to you.....

Shining example of good behaviour - be like this if you can!

Dreams and fantasies - exciting, within the realms of possibility adventures / acting out of hopes and fears/ impossible dreams.

Animals pretending to be people. How to behave (or not.....)

Folk tale or fairy tale.

What you can do or be when you grow up.

Familiar, unthreatening setting- security, comfort and safety.

e) Are these aspects the same or different in the different cultures we are looking at? (as seen through the childrens' books)

How much do the books reflect society? How have modern books changed?

APPENDIX XII EXAMPLES OF ESSAY QUESTIONS GIVEN TO FRENCH STUDENTS

1) Narrative Structure

Compare the differences and similarities in the narrative structure of the two films: the initial misunderstanding, action/ realism, heroin/heroine etc. Which is more effective in your opinion and why?

2) Characterisation

Compare the characters of Jacques/Jack, Peter/Pierre etc., their physical appearance, jobs etc. along with the relationships between them: friendship, boyfriend/girlfriend, parent/child etc. How far do they reflect the attitudes analysed in 'Cultural Misunderstandings'?

3) Film Techniques

Comment on the different film techniques used in the films -lighting, music, rhythm, point of view, frame, mise en scène. Which do find more effective and why?

4) Attitudes

Describe the different attitudes to the police, to the drug dealers, to women, to the baby. In what way could they be seen as a reflection of different social attitudes in France and the United States?

5) Humour

Analyse and compare the different types of humour in the two films - comedy of situation, character, farce etc. In what way could they be seen as culturally appropriate?

APPENDIX XIII

Videoconference 3rd April 1997 E.N.S.T. BRETAGNE and Midwest University

Part One

Questions from the American students in French. Responsibility for fielding questions if necessary:
Bruno: Evidences Invisibles. La Fontaine Frédéric: Trois Hommes et Un Couffin / Three Men and a Baby. 9 Mois. Guillaume: Trois Hommes et Un Couffin / Three Men and a Baby. Isabelle: Films and Friendship in Evidences Invisibles. Nadia: Childrens' books, French and American.
Olivier / Isabelle/ Steve - general questions.

Part Two

Questions from the French students in English.

a) Questionnaire based on Evidences Invisibles (see below). b) Questions on Films

Trois Hommes et Un Couffin / Three Men and a Baby.

- What do you think of the portrayal of the Police in 3 Hommes and why was it changed so much in Three Men? - Do you think it is necessary to have so much action in the American version?

- Why does the attitude to the drugs change so much? Is it necessary to give them back to the Police?

- Why are the drug dealers themselves so different? - Is it necessary to have men dressing up as women? Is the American grandmother realistic? Would your mother or grandmother react like this?

- Do you understand the humour of the French grandmother? and of Michel?

9 Mois / 9 months

- Are you shocked by the young girlfriend in 9 mois? Why do you think it is Samuel and not this girl who criticizes the Baby Bores at the lunch party in 9 Months? - What do you think of the portrayal of children in the two films? In 9 mois, for example when Marc throws the ball in the little girl's face at the lunch party? Or when the American children are on the beach at the beginning of 9 Months? Do you find the car journey at the end of 9 Months funny?

Questionnaire based on reading of "Evidences Invisibles", written by the students.

SURVEY ON CULTURAL MISUNDERSTANDINGS

Parent/child relationships.

Question 1

When your child interrupts your conversation, do you:

- a) Stop talking and listen to him/her immediately?
- b) Tell him/her calmly to wait for a moment?
- c) Tell him/her he/she must never interrupt you?
- d) Shout at him/her and tell him/her to shut up?

Question 2

A child invited to your home is behaving badly in your opinion, do you:

- a) Say nothing because you feel it is not for you to intervene?
- b) Expect the child's parents to correct him/her?
- c) Correct him/ her publicly because you feel it is the right thing to do?
- d) Seize the opportunity to correct him/her when his/her parents are not looking?

Question 3

Your son is sixteen years old. He is invited to a party one evening and asks you if you could "lend" him a bottle of Tequila to take with him.

- a) You have no objection but would like him to pay for the bottle.
- b) You lend him the bottle after a quarter of an hour's explanation about the dangers of alcohol.
- c) You refuse to let him go to this meeting of alcoholics.
- d) You tell him that he is old enough now to go and buy his own drink.

Question 4

Your daughter asks you for 100 francs.

- a) You ask her what she is planning to do with it.
- b) You give her the money without asking anything.
- c) You don't give her the money. She must take her own financial responsibilities
- d) You give her 200 francs.

Social Contact

Question 1

You have a workman in your house doing an hour or two's work. Do you:

- a) Offer him a cup of coffee/ glass of water/beer?
- b) Leave him to get on with his work in peace?
- c) Stand and watch him working and make comments if necessary?
- d) Make polite conversation with him?

Question 2

2) What would surprise or annoy you most?

- a) He asked to use your lavatory/bathroom.
- b) He didn't ask to use the lavatory/bathroom but went into your back garden for that purpose.
- c) He asked to use your telephone without explaining why he needed it.
- d) He used your telephone without asking, to contact his boss about a problem.

Friendship

Question 1

Your best friend has behaved in a way that you disapprove of. She is upset and has come to confide in you. What is your reaction?

- a) You listen carefully to her without revealing your feelings.
- b) You try to give her support and find attenuating circumstances.
- c) You try to explain kindly to her that her behaviour was not the best.
- d) You firmly and crudely tell her the mistakes she has made.

Question 2

One of your friends is in trouble: she's got plenty of things to do.

- a) You wait until she asks you to help her because you don't want to annoy her.
- b) You offer to help her without being asked
- c) You start helping her discretely.
- d) It's her business. You do nothing.

The Telephone

Question 1

You answer the phone and the caller does not introduce themselves. Do you:

- a) Immediately ask them to give their name?
- b) Ask the caller's name even if they have asked to speak to someone else?
- c) Not ask the caller's name and try to recognise their voice if the call is for you?
- d) Ring off immediately?

The House

Question 1

When night falls, do you:

- a) Hurry up to close the shutters/curtains?
- b) Leave them open until you go to bed?
- c) Leave them open all the time?
- d) Leave them half-closed during the day and totally closed at night?

Question 2

When someone invites you to go and have supper at their house, do you:

- a) Expect to be shown only specific rooms in their house? (eg, the toilet)
- b) Ask them where such rooms are only when you need them?
- c) Go and search for yourself?
- d) Wander around the bedrooms, kitchen etc, at will?

Question 3

When you put someone up that you don't know,(eg, a student) do you:

- a) Prepare meals for him?
- b) Let him prepare things for himself?
- c) Spend time chatting with him/her?
- d) Show him the rooms he is supposed to use?

APPENDIX XIV

Videoconference April 24th 1997

E.N.S.T. BRETAGNE and Midwest University

1) Questions in French by American students

- to be answered by the French student whose name is indicated in capitals:

a) Conversation

J'ai lu dans Carroll que quelques aspects de la politesse américaine quotidienne peuvent être mal interprétés par les Français. Par exemple, quand on croise un étranger dans la rue et on lui sourit, ici cela ne veut rien dire mais là-bas on peut croire qu'il s'agit d'un "regard significatif". Est-ce qu'il y a d'autres comportements américains qui sont mal interprétés de la même façon? Courtney (NADIA)

b) La Maison

J'ai lu dans Carroll la description des différences entre les maisons françaises et américaines, et j'y ai reconnu ma propre situation. Notre maison a été cambriolée par le fils d'un invité qui on avait tout montré par politesse. En général il y a un plus grand nombre de cambriolages aux Etats-Unis. Croyez-vous que cela s'explique par cette différence culturelle? Katie (THOMAS)

c) Le Couple

A quel âge se marie-t-on en France, et quelles sont les qualités d'un bon mariage? Y a-t-il beaucoup de couples interculturels? Michelle (ISABELLE A.)

d) L'importance de l'argent

Est-ce qu'à votre avis les Américains s'intéressent trop à l'argent et aux possessions? Dans quelle mesure est-ce que l'argent symbolise la réussite pour vous? Donna (ISABELLE J)

e) Parents / Enfants

Les adolescents américains sont souvent punis pour des comportements que leurs parents trouvent inacceptables; par exemple, sécher les cours ou quitter la maison sans en avoir l'autorisation. La punition s'appelle "grounding". Cela veut dire qu'on ne peut ni partir, ni téléphoner. Quelles seraient les punitions typiques pour les adolescents français? Katrina - (OLIVIER)

f) J'ai lu un livre qui s'appelle Mélanie Pilou, où il s'agit d'une petite fille qui se comporte mal tout le temps. Mais personne ne la punit. Est-ce que cette histoire représente bien ce qui se passe en France, ou est-ce que les parents punissent leurs petits enfants sévèrement? Karma - (BRUNO)

g) Pour l'auteur du Petit Prince, les grandes personnes sont sévères et sans imagination. Les grandes personnes ont découragé ses dessins et ses rêves quand il était petit. Selon Carroll, les parents américains encouragent les petits à être créateurs. Quelle est l'attitude des parents français à l'heure actuelle? Lily (GUILLAUME)

h) La Police

J'ai noté que dans la littérature enfantine et dans les films français il y a souvent des portraits comiques des policiers. Par exemple, je pense à l'Agent 212, à Dupont et Dupont dans les albums Tintin, et aux 3 hommes et un couffin. Quelle est la perception générale de l'autorité? Est-ce que les policiers sont perçus comme des amis ou des ennemis? Adam - (STEVE)

i) L'Education

J'ai lu Le Grand Meaulnes et je voudrais savoir la différence, en France, entre les écoles publiques et les écoles privées Catholiques. Quelle est la réputation des anciens élèves des internats Catholiques? Je voudrais aussi savoir s'il est normal dans les écoles françaises d'avoir un maître comme le Grand Meaulnes, dont tout le monde a peur. Mary - (NADIA)

j) L'Humour

Mon correspondant, Frédéric, s'excuse souvent de ses plaisanteries. Quand je les comprends je les trouve amusantes, mais souvent je ne comprends pas. Est-ce que vous trouvez une différence entre le sens de l'humour français et américain, par exemple dans les films ou les livres? Leila - (FREDERIC)

k) Astérix

Dans les albums Astérix, les Romains sont rendu totalement ridicules. Quand vous étudiez l'histoire française, quelle est la vraie image de l'occupation romaine? Judy - (ISABELLE J)

l) Dans quelle mesure pensez-vous que les livres d'Astérix soient une représentation exacte de l'histoire française? Lauren - (BRUNO)

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m) Je sais que les noms des personnages dans l'album Astérix Chez Les Bretons sont jolis (par exemple Assurancetourix, Surtax et Ipipourax). Quelle est la signification de ces noms, et pourquoi sont-ils comiques? John - (ISABELLE A)

n) Dans les livres américains il y a souvent des leçons de morale pour les enfants. Quelles sont les leçons qu'on apprend en lisant Astérix? Holly - (STEVE /GUILLAUME)

2) PRESENTATION OF BOOKS AND QUESTIONS ON THEM IN ENGLISH

a) Belgian and French school of BD's for different age groups.

(Tintin, Lucky Luke, Gaston la Gaffe, Les Maitres de l'Orge, Spirou, Soeur Marie-Thérèse des Batignolles) Does this kind of 'literature' exist in the U.S and if so is it popular?

Examples of original BD's from the Students' newspaper 'Coup de Venst. Frédéric

b) Le Petit Nicolas, le Grand Meaulnes.

Have you read anything where you feel you identify closely with the characters? Nadia

c) Les Malheurs de Sophie (Poil de Carotte)

French parental attitudes. How does this compare with Mélanie Pilou? Isabelle J.

d) Les memoires d'un Ane.

Would American children appreciate moral tales presented by a donkey? Steve.

e) The importance of La Fontaine's fables in French culture.

What fables or poetry, if any, are widely known in the U.S. Bruno.

3) SOAP OPERAS

a) How do you recognise the "baddy" in American soaps?

i) Physical type ii) Behaviour iii) Aspirations iv) How do they differ from Nathalie in 'Hélène et les Garçons' ? Frédéric

b) Do you think it's exaggerated to say that the three classical unities (time, place, action) are respected in French soaps or is their simplicity merely a question of budget?

c) How successful is Hélène et les Garçons in the U.S.?

d) How does the technical level of filming and level of acting compare to the American soaps?

e) Does the recent violence in Beverley Hills reflect the American way of life? Do average Americans find it realistic?

f) Do American audiences expect topical issues to be addressed in soap operas ? (drug abuse, alcoholism, abortion, casual sex, homosexuality)

g) Are there any valid role models in American soaps?

h) What audiences are targeted by American soaps?

i) What viewing times are used for various soaps?

j) What is "Les Feux de l'Amour" in English?

QUESTIONS ON CULTURAL MISUNDERSTANDINGS

LA MAISON

Joanne

Quand vous avez quelqu'un chez vous, dans quelles pièces êtes-vous le plus à l'aise? Avec un ami? un voisin? un facteur? Et pourquoi?

L'AMITIE

Lucy

Pourriez-vous nous expliquer la différence entre un "ami", un "copain" et un "camarade"?

PARENTS / ENFANTS

Cassie

Comment avez-vous choisi l'ENST? Quelles facteurs ont motivé les décisions que vous avez prises quant à vos études? Pensez-vous que ces décisions ont été prises librement ou en réaction à des contraintes familiales ou sociales?

LE COUPLE

Jane

En public, en compagnie de ses amis, est-ce qu'un couple se tiendrait la main ou s'embrasserait? Pourquoi ou pourquoi pas?

Sophia Est-ce qu'on ressent qu'on doit avoir la bénédiction des parents quand on se marie?

SE RENSEIGNER

Patricia

Qu'est-ce qui se passe quand quelqu'un a un pneu crevé sur l'autoroute?

Est-ce que d'autres personnes s'arrêtent pour l'aider?

Qu'est-ce qui se passe quand on entre dans un restaurant? Est-ce que le maître d'hôtel vous montre votre table, ou est-ce que vous choisissez vous-même?

Jack

Quelle est votre impression de la cuisine américaine?

Est-ce que vous vous croyez mieux reçu aux Etats-Unis ou en Angleterre?

Molly

Vous dînez chez un ami. La cuisine est terrible et vous ne pouvez pas manger. Est-ce que vous dites que la cuisine est terrible, ou est-ce que mangez en faisant semblant de vous régaler?

Aimée

Si l'argent symbolise la réussite dans la société américaine, quel est l'équivalent en France?

Deborah Quel rôle joue la séduction dans la société française? Et l'argent?

1) The minor accident

Laurence

a) How do you feel if you lend something to someone and they return it damaged?

b) Do you feel offended if someone breaks a glass during a party and just says sorry?

c) What would you do if you were the person who had broken the glass?

Nicolas

How would you behave if the battery of a car you have just borrowed goes flat? How would you behave if you were the person lending the car?

Jérôme

a) Do you expect someone who has borrowed your car to fill it up with petrol before returning it?

b) Do you know what we call a "Quarter pound with cheese" in France? And a Big Mac?

2) The telephone

Nivedita

- a) Do you use your phone easily, even for a trifle, calling people you see every day, friends you could easily have visited instead?
- b) Do you say who's calling when you call someone you know or do you expect the person to recognise you? Is "I'll call you back " just an excuse?

David

- a) Do you use a mobile phone? Is it usual to have several phone lines in one house?
- b) Do you think how people use the telephone is of any significance for the study of sociocultural differences?

3) Friendship

Jérôme

- a) When you are in trouble and you've got something to ask one of your friends, do you expect him or her to offer help or do you ask?
- b) What is your definition of a friend?

Andry

- a) A friend comes and tells you they have done something wrong. How do you react?
- b) How do you consider a person who doesn't have any friends?

4) Parents and children

Yann

- a) When do American adolescents really feel independent? What are the signs of that independence?
- b) Do you agree that it is very important for an American child not to be punished in front of his or her friends?

Thiébaut

- a) French adolescents are often said to be brought up too strictly. What rules, if any, do you think there should be for adolescents? What kind of rules did you have?
- b) Do you think the way that children are brought up in the States is changing? If so, in which direction?

5) The Home

Yann

- a) When you are invited for dinner, do you give your hosts a gift (flowers, chocolates, alcohol, b) Do you easily put your friends and even your friends' friends up?

Grégory

What's the importance of TV in your everyday life?

QUESTIONS IN FRENCH

Aimée

Dans le film "La Crise", le frère de Michou vit avec une femme arabe. Il semblerait qu'il y ait des problèmes de cohabitation avec les Arabes en France qui sont illustrés dans ce film. Pouvez-vous m'en parler?

Selon The French National Front de Harvey Simmons (1996), l'un des buts du Front National est la préservation du patrimoine culturel de la France et de l'identité française. Pourquoi à votre avis est-ce que les membres du Front National croient que ce patrimoine est menacé?

Jane

Mon mari est allemand, et les bandes dessinées sont très importantes dans sa vie. Il les collectionne (et ses oncles le font aussi). Aux Etats-Unis, les bandes dessinées sont principalement destinées à un public d'enfants. A quel âge est-ce qu'on lit des bandes dessinées comme Astérix? Est-ce que les bandes dessinées sont très populaires en France?

Cassie J'ai lu Astérix en Corse et je voudrais savoir si ces livres étaient très importants à vous quand vous étiez jeunes. Pourquoi ou pourquoi pas?

Jack

Si quelqu'un gagne beaucoup d'argent par chance ou suivant un décès dans sa famille, peut-il changer de classe sociale? Ce changement peut-il avoir lieu immédiatement? Quelle est la possibilité qu'il ne changera jamais de classe sociale?

Ici, très souvent les étudiants poursuivent une formation universitaire afin de gagner une meilleure vie que celle de leurs parents. Est-ce que c'est pareil chez vous? Pourquoi aller à l'université en France? Est-il plus difficile de bien gagner sa vie là-bas si on n'a pas de formation universitaire?

Caitlin

Le film "Pretty Woman" est un portrait extrêmement idéaliste d'une prostituée qui devient bourgeoise quand elle reçoit de l'argent. Dans "La vie est un long fleuve tranquille" l'argent n'a pas le même effet sur la famille Groseille. Pourquoi est-ce que l'argent ne change pas la classe sociale de cette famille? Quelles sont les autres déterminants de la classe sociale en France? Et comment peut-on les reconnaître?

Joanne

Que feriez-vous si vous receviez soixante mille francs?

Lucy

Est-ce que les situations que nous présentons dans notre vidéo correspondent à l'image que vous avez de la classe sociale américaine? Si non, pourquoi pas?

Discussion in English about remakes, levels of friendship, class, language register

APPENDIX XVII -Videoconference between E.N.S.T. BRETAGNE and Midwest University April 1999

American students' questions

La construction de l'identité

Maria

En comparant les deux films, on voit que dans le film américain les trois hommes parlent davantage de leur travail. A ton avis, est-ce que le travail est une source d'identité différente dans les deux cultures?

Francesca Dans notre manuel, les Français, l'auteur dit que les Français ont deux identités, sociale et privée. Les critiques et reprimandes des profs produisent un effet sur l'identité sociale seulement. Pour un américain, la critique est aussi accablante pour les deux identités. Est-ce que tu penses que l'auteur décrit bien l'identité des Français?

Kelly Aux Etats-Unis nous avons tendance à évaluer les hommes publics selon les actions de leur vie privée. Pour être un bon président, par exemple, il est important de montrer un bon caractère et des "valeurs familiales," d'où le scandale du Président Clinton. Quelle est l'opinion publique en France de ce scandale?

Craig Selon Carroll, les amitiés françaises sont plus contraignantes que les amitiés américaines. Un américain hésiterait à proposer d'aider son ami par crainte de le déranger ou pire, d'impliquer qu'il n'est pas capable de résoudre ses problèmes tout seul. Par contre, l'ami français agirait différemment en proposant plus souvent une aide concrète. Que penses-tu de cette différence?

Problèmes sociaux

Lin Dans le film "Trois Hommes et un couffin" les trois hommes ont dupé les agents de police. En général, quelle est l'attitude des Français envers la police?

Edward Dans la version française, les hommes rendent les drogues à la bande de dealers et résolvent le malentendu sans aller à la police. On supposerait que la toxicomanie n'est pas vue comme un mal à éviter à tout prix. Est-ce que ceci est une représentation suffisante de l'attitude des Français concernant les drogues?

Sam Nous savons que chez les Français les Américains sont réputés puritains, en particulier en ce qui concerne le corps humain. Quelles sont tes impressions du puritanisme américain, par exemple concernant les prohibitions contre la nudité en public?

Tiffany Aux Etats-Unis il y a des lois très strictes gouvernant la consommation de l'alcool, mais nous avons quand même des problèmes associés à l'alcool, par exemple, l'alcoolisme et la conduite en état d'ivresse. Nous voudrions savoir quels lois existent en France concernant l'alcool et si vous avez ces mêmes problèmes.

Parents/ enfants

Jane Dans les deux versions de "Trois hommes et un couffin" le bébé a un effet différent sur le statut social des hommes. Dans la version américaine, les hommes sont au parc avec elle et ils attirent l'attention de beaucoup de femmes, mais dans la version française, les femmes détestent l'attention que les hommes portent au bébé. S'agit-il d'une représentation exacte de la réaction qu'on aurait en France?

Lucy A la fin de "Trois hommes et un couffin" la femme n'a pas un bon travail. A cause de sa situation, elle ne peut plus "tenir le coup" et s'occuper de son bébé. Est-ce qu'il y a beaucoup de femmes en France qui élèvent leurs enfants seules? Qu'est-ce que la société pense de ces mères? Est-ce qu'on les accepte?

Les Remakes

Diana Avez-vous vu d'autres remakes de films français? Quelle est votre opinion de ces remakes?

QUESTIONS IN ENGLISH

Bringing up Children

Karine

1) Your son, or daughter, is about 16 years old. One evening, he/she is invited to a party where there will be alcoholic drinks. H/she asks if h/she can go and join his/her friends. How would you react?

- a) You let him/her go because you know h/she won't accept any alcoholic drinks. Nevertheless, you remind him/her of the dangers of alcohol.
- b) You refuse to let him/her go to the party because you fear h/she might be lead by his/her "friends"
- c) You let him/her go, just saying that h/she is old enough to know what h/she should do.
- d) You refuse to let him/her go and forbid him/her to see these alcoholic friends in future.
- e) You only refuse because h/she is under age.

2) You happen to know that your son or daughter who is 16 years old is used to drinking alcohol or smoking on the sly with friends. How would you react? Would you have the same reaction if they were 18?

3) Privacy personal space When night falls, do you:

- a) Close the shutters/curtains?
- b) Leave them open until you go to bed?
- c) Leave them open all the time?
- d) Leave them half-closed during the day and totally closed at night?

4) When you invite someone to your home for supper or for the night, do you:

- a) Show them only specific rooms in your house (the toilet etc)?
- b) Show them the rooms only when they need them?
- c) Show them the whole house so as to make them feel at home?

Minor Incident

Etienne A. A crystal glass slips from the hands of a guest. It breaks and the wine spills onto the floor. Who will most often pick up the pieces and go for something to absorb the liquid?

Would you find it rude not to offer to replace the broken glass?

If the guest made such an offer, would the host accept it?

Would it be surprising that the guest offers to pay for the glass?

Parents and school

Lise Do American parents play an important rôle in the schooling of their children?
If yes, can you explain why and how? (for example do they help their children to do their homework?)
Which one is the most involved in the schooling of the children: the mother or the father?

Telephone

Masir Do you have a personal telephone in your parents' house? If yes who chose to do so, your parents or yourself? Who pays the telephone bills?
Do you really call your teachers at their homes to ask them questions concerning your lesson? Why?
Couldn't you note down the problem and ask them directly next time in class?
How do you view mobile phones? Are they widespread in the States?
Would it bother you to be called anywhere, whatever you are doing?

Jean- Louis Are there any implicit rules to abide by, when calling someone (not during the meals...).
Do you identify yourself on the phone when you call? Don't you feel annoyed when the caller doesn't identify themselves?

Food

Are there any typical US dishes? Or do you eat fast food all the time?

Friendship

Antoine Do you agree with the idea that the word "friend" is used much more loosely in American than in French? I mean, when would you say that a person is your friend?
Is there also a matter of time? Are Americans hypocritical with their friends?

Alexis What question would you never dare to ask a friend, even if he or she is a true friend?

Etienne H Do you believe that friendship between a boy and a girl is possible?
Do you make the difference between a friend (a "simple friend") and a "real friend"?
If yes, which is the main difference?

Remakes

Flore Do you realize that most of the movies the Americans chose to remake usually are among the worst examples of stupidity and vulgarity one could possibly find in France, and wouldn't deserve any attention (La Totale/True Lies, Neuf Mois/Nine Months...), not even mentioning the fact that the remakes just can't help sticking closely to their models?

Masir In "3 hommes et un couffin", when it comes to giving the drugs back to the dealers, Michel easily fools the police whereas in the American version they help the police to arresting the dealers. How would an American react in such a situation? Would he really help the police or try to be smarter than policemen?

APPENDIX XVIII - VIDEOCONFERENCE MAY 6TH 1999

QUESTIONS IN FRENCH French student to answer in brackets

Francesca (Etienne H.) Est-ce que vous pensez que les actions de l'OTAN en Kosovo sont justifiées?

Lucy (Flore) (This overlaps with Flore's question so perhaps discussion could continue in English in the second part) A cause de la tragédie en Colorado, il y a actuellement beaucoup de controverse sur le contrôle des armes dans les écoles américaines. Est-ce qu'il y a des élèves armés dans les écoles françaises? Quelles lois existent en France concernant les armes pour les jeunes gens?

Patricia (Lise) Quelle est votre opinion des examens que vous avez passés pour entrer dans une grande école? Pensez-vous que ce système de concours est juste et équitable?

Jane - If she is able to come - (Karine) Comment est-ce que tu imagines la vie d'un étudiant américain (un étudiant à l'université)?

Kelly (Alexis) Quelle sorte de musique est le "Celtic Rock"? Est-ce que Louise Attacks est un groupe de femmes artistes? Quelle sorte de musique est "Texas"? Quelle est la musique, française ou américaine, que vous aimez le plus?

Tiffany (Antoine) Aux Etats-Unis, on reconnaît la différence entre les classes sociales en regardant la voiture, les vêtements, l'emploi, etc. En France, quelles sont les caractéristiques des différentes classes sociales, et comment les reconnaissez-vous?

Lin (Etienne A.) Est-ce que la religion est importante pour vous? Si oui, est-ce que vous êtes pratiquants?

Anna (Grégory) Est-ce qu'il y a un problème avec les immigrants en France aujourd'hui? Si votre réponse est oui, commentez s'il vous plaît sur votre position envers les immigrants et l'immigration.

Craig (Karine) Comment est-ce que le Front National a influencé la France ces dernières années? Est-ce que vous pensez que le Front National a plus de membres maintenant que dans le passé?

Edward (Flore or Jean-Louis if he can come) Aux Etats-Unis, quelquefois la police ne respecte pas les droits des citoyens, malgré les lois nous protégeant contre les recherches ou les saisies illégales, et elles qui protègent la vie privée, prévoyant le droit d'avoir un avocat et de ne pas parler à la police. Est-ce que la loi française protège les citoyens de la police?

Sam (Alexis) Est-ce que l'usage de la marijuana est courant en France? Qu'est-ce qui se passe quand on apprend qu'un jeune fume?

PART TWO: QUESTIONS IN ENGLISH

Rules and Regulations - Etienne A

The French often break rules and regulations. Some of these (speed limits, smoking areas...) are considered, in my opinion, as advice about what would be safe, polite or civic. So if you think you're civic or safe enough, or that nobody will mind, you will break the rule most of the time. This disobedience reaches such a point that little (or common) offences are simply tolerated. For example: You can drive 10kmph above the limit, that is to say at the average speed. What is American behavior regarding rules and regulations? Are the authorities in the US as tolerant?

Punctuality

Karine

In France students are frequently late for school. Is it the case in America too?

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What about you, are you usually punctual or not? When do you decide it is too late to go to an appointment? Do you behave the same way with friends and other people you don't know (well)? For instance, would you arrive five minutes early to an employment office and just on time to a friend's appointment?

Images of France in the U.S.A.

Lise.

In France, we regularly hear about the political and economic life of the USA.(The TV news often refers to what happens on the other side of the Atlantic). What kind of information and images from France (conveyed by the media) do you get in the USA?

Violence in school

Flore

How do you feel about the shooting that took place in Denver several days ago: do Americans still consider the right to carry a gun to be of prime importance? Are there any lobbies against guns and how active are they?

Social distance

Etienne H. /Alexis

Kisses: I usually kiss my whole family, not only when I've not seen them for a long time but also when I'm going to go to bed, or sometimes when I get up in the morning.

This is perhaps because my father takes care a lot of his children.

So, I wanted to know, in The USA, who and when do you usually kiss?

Dinner: When somebody invites you in France, for example a person who is working in the same company, either you bring a gift (chocolate, bottle of wine, flowers...) which means that you thank them for inviting you but you'll not invite them back; or you just come and since you do not offer anything, they'll understand that you'll invite them in the future to thank them. How does it happen in your country?

Fashions in dancing-Grégory

The importance of sport on the campus- Antoine

PART THREE:

DISCUSSION ABOUT PROJECTS AND TOPICS OF GENERAL INTEREST

QUESTIONS EN FRANÇAIS

1. Pensez-vous qu'il y a des stéréotypes des Américains chez les Français? Quels sont ces stéréotypes? Avez-vous jamais visité les États-Unis, et si vous les avez visités, que pensez-vous de ces stéréotypes? Avez-vous noté des différences culturelles, surtout entre les jeunes, qui expliqueraient ces stéréotypes? Barbara-Jean (JULIE et JEREMY)
2. Les États-Unis furent établis avec un désir pour la liberté religieuse, morale, et économique. On apprend tôt dans sa formation qu'on crée son propre destin. On peut naître pauvre et devenir riche avec beaucoup de travail. On écoute des histoires de gens pauvres qui ont réussi dans la vie. Alors, beaucoup de gens deviennent matérialistes. On veut de grosses voitures, de beaux copains, plusieurs maisons, et de l'argent. En essence, on nous encourage à suivre nos rêves et espoirs. On appelle cette philosophie "The American Dream" ou "Le Rêve Américain". J'aimerais savoir s'il y a une philosophie pareille que l'on pourrait appeler "Le Rêve Français". Maureen (CHARLES)
3. Croyez-vous qu'il y a trop d'influence culturelle américaine en France? De même, est-ce que vous voyez une différence dans l'influence américaine sur les jeunes français et sur les français adultes? Alicia VALENTIN
4. Ici aux États-Unis nous avons des problèmes avec l'alcool, surtout aux universités. Les étudiants sortent et ils boivent et boivent et boivent. Est-ce qu'il y a des problèmes comme ça en France? Rosie (VIVIEN et BENOIT)
5. Ici, dans les journaux, il n'a pas souvent des reportages sur les événements importants qui se passent dans les autres pays. Est-ce qu'en France vous pouvez apprendre ce qui se passe ici aux États-Unis en lisant les journaux et en regardant la télé? Est-ce que vous êtes bien informés des développements et événements ici aux États-Unis? Lucinda (GUILLAUME T. PATRICE)
6. En classe, nous avons vu le film, "Etudiants au bord de la crise de nerfs," un film qui montre les vies de quelques étudiants qui sont en train de passer de bac. Le système scolaire français est très différent de celui des États-Unis. Aux États-Unis, en général, on peut assister à l'université. Il y a des universités de niveaux différents et des bourses pour les étudiants sans argent. Donc, qu'est-ce que vous pensez des deux systèmes? Lequel est le plus juste? Anna (MARC XAVIER L)
7. Nous savons que le chômage est un grand problème en France. Qu'est-ce que vous allez faire quand vous finissez vos études? Allez-vous rester en France ou déménager dans un autre pays? Annette (MATHIEU, XAVIER C. GUILLAUME F)
8. Après avoir regardé les films américains comme "Nine Months" et "Three Men and a Baby" que pensez-vous de la différence entre les images que la culture américaine et la culture française montrent sur la sexualité? Mary (JEREMY)
9. Ici aux États-Unis un passe-temps favori des américains est la

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télévision. La télé est une influence importante dans la vie des américains. Est-ce que la télé est aussi importante en France? Est-ce que la télé influence la société? Sue YANN

10. Qu'est-ce que vous pensez de L'Union Européenne? Etes-vous pour ou contre l'intégration des pays? Avez-vous noté une augmentation de nationalisme en France à cause de cela? Quelle est l'influence de ces changements sur la situation économique et culturelle en Bretagne? Jessica SEBASTIEN

11. Le Bac a la réputation d'être très difficile. Si quelqu'un ne réussit pas au Bac, que peut-il faire? Annabel NICOLAS

12. Comment envisagez-vous le rôle de la France au XXIème siècle sur le plan international? Croyez-vous plutôt à l'influence économique ou à l'influence culturelle de la Francophonie? Tariq LUDOVIC

13. Quels changements avez-vous vus dans la vie quotidienne concernant le changement du franc français à l'euro? Est-ce que vous êtes d'accord avec une seule monnaie pour toute l'Europe? Kevin MATHIEU

14. Ici aux Etats-Unis il y a la nourriture régionale comme la nourriture "cajun" de New Orléans, le homard au nord-est et la nourriture mexicaine au sud-ouest. Avez-vous les types différents de nourriture en France par région? Sue XAVIER L

15. Quelle importance est-ce que la famille, spécifiquement les parents place dans l'éducation quand vous devenez adulte? Chris JEAN-LOUP

QUESTIONS IN ENGLISH

Student Life

Thibaut Do you enjoy life on your campus? What do you do in your free time?

Guillaume T. Do your studies occupy a very important place in your life? Is it just a way to meet people or something more important? Do you think American and French students see their studies in the same way?

Attitudes to France/The French/Europe

Jean-Loup Why did you choose to learn French? The culture, the country....

What sort of French products can you buy in America, apart from luxury products? Do you have access to French news other than via Internet?

Matthieu How do you see the typical Frenchman? What do you think of the E.U.?

Do you think a federal system like in America would be an appropriate solution for the E.U.?

Nicolas Are there cultural and linguistic minorities in the U.S.?

How do they express themselves? Through terrorism, newspapers, political parties?

Patrice Do you think it is fair to tax French food like Roquefort and Foie Gras because we don't want your beef with hormones in it?

Other Attitudes

Jérémy What do you think of the American legislation on weapons, especially considering it as a constitutional right?

Marc What do you think about genetically modified food? Do you eat any?

FILMS

Valentin Are foreign movies released in the U.S.? From which countries?
What is the balance between American movies and foreign ones?
Do you often watch foreign movies as a personal choice? Which ones for instance?

Ludovic In "Le retour de Martin Guerre" and "Sommersby" (as in other remakes), do you think it was necessary to transpose the story from the Middle Ages to the Civil War? Do you think that Americans feel more concerned by this method rather than by dubbing in English? On the other hand, why is "The Messenger" (Jeanne d'Arc in French) so successful though it also takes place in the Middle Ages?

Heroes

Vivien What are the differences between heroes in French and American films.
Do American heroes always have to be strong and tough guys, like Arnold Schwarzenegger or Sylvester Stallone?

9 Mois

Yann Have you been shocked by any scenes in French films, such as the black doctor or in the doctor's waiting room when the women are waiting for their ultrasound in 9 mois?

Julie Do you think there are over-exaggerated scenes in 9 mois/ 9 Months? Which film do you think is the most romantic/realistic/funniest? Which characters do you prefer?

Television

Xavier C. What do you think of The Jerry Springer Show ?
How do Americans feel about series like Baywatch, Beverly Hills and Melrose Place?
Don't Americans prefer The Simpsons, Daria, South Park, Jerry Seinfeld or Friends?

'L'exception culturelle'

Charles As an American citizen, can you explain to us why US films and their big stars have flooded the whole world. Do you see the extent of the domination of your culture over ours? There is currently a movement organised by French film directors to protect the French identity and to enhance 'l'exception culturelle', to protect the 7th Art from American blockbusters. What do you think?

Guillaume F. French people often blame Americans for trying to export their culture abroad and considering themselves as the world police. Do Americans really think they have to rule the world?

Sebastian H. As the OMC conference has just begun in Seattle, what do you think of Europe's fight for cultural identity (cinema, TV)?

Cultural Misunderstandings

Friendship

Benoit Is a good friend an old friend? Photos: If the squirrels are such a nuisance haven't you ever considered getting stone ones just like the pigs?

Telephone

Xavier Do you think that you have in America a great ease to telephone (to phone to a teacher for instance)?

Sebastien T Mobile phones seem to have a smaller impact in the USA than in Europe. Why do you think it is the case? Do you find them interesting, or useful?

APPENDIX XX EXTRACTS FROM E-MAIL CORRESPONDENCE

i) Maureen and Charles 1999

Hello my dear 'Maureen'!

I'm glad that you did answer me at last and I was also very interested in what you told me! So my penfriend is likely to become 99'Miss Latina!! I had no idea of what you look like but, NOW, I guess you are very very pretty and I understand that the chaps who see you dancing with a friend of yours try to forget their jealousy by getting drunk! Yet, I'd like to stress an aspect of your latest mail: you may think that I'm the cute boy who is riding the funboard on the picture but...I AM NOT!!! It's a picture I found on a web site and I only sent it to you for it's a beautiful photo...and that's all! I hope you are not too disappointed! I shall send you a picture of myself on my board and you will assess the difference! Last Thursday, I went to a great party and had much fun with my friends, singing and dancing in the rain (remember Gen Kelly in the famous "Singing in the Rain"?). You must be a fan of West Side Story but the end of our party was a bit more funny! On Saturday, I spent the whole night dancing (unfortunately neither Salsa nor Merengue!) and saw the Episode 1 of Star Wars and I really enjoyed it! I won't tell you further more because I know that you have much work to do; I do hope Le Mois Hispanique will be a success and that people will pay attention to this culture you seem to be so proud of. Have a nice time, 'Maureen', and a tres bientot j'espere! (isn't it what you American people call the "French Touch"?)

Bye bye.

C..H..A..R..L..E..S

NB: My penfriend is going to be Miss Latina! I can't believe this!

Ah Charles !

Tu es vraiment charmant! Si je deviens Miss Latina, je t'envoierai une photo de moi avec ma couronne parce que m'encourage! C'est un reve de devenir un reine de beaute, meme si c'est au niveau universitaire. Je suis vraiment decu. Je pensais que c'etait toi dans la photo. J'attenderai ta photo avec impatience ; A quelle type de musique est-ce que tu dances? Je ne connais pas bien la musique francaise. Je me souviens dans petit garcon qui s'appelle Jordi (je crois qu'on l'epeler comme ca); il y a 6 ans que cette chanson est sortie. Je n'est pas ecoute rien de plus de Jordi. Le video etait vachement mignon parce que Jordi avait une troisaine d'annees, et il etait amoureux d'une fille de son age. Ils se regardaient de leur flaneurs. C'est mignon n'est-ce pas? Je pense voyager l'annee prochain a Strasbourg. J'aimerais bien etuder en France pour finir ma specialite en francais. East University offre des etudes dans quelques regions de France, mais j'ai choisi Strasbourg parce que c'est loin de Bretagne :) Je te plaisante. J'ai choisi cette ville parce mon autre specialite c'est la communications, et je pense que je peut y prendre des classes pour finir cette specialite aussi. Tu y est alle? Qu'est-ce que tu sais de Strasbourg? J'imagine que j'y mangerai de la choucroutte tous le jours! :)

Malheureusement, il faut que je m'en aille pour continuer ma vie trop presse: (

A la prochain fois!

Ta correspondante preferee,
'Maureen'

Bonsoir, chere 'Maureen',

just a few words from your "favorite penfriend" to tell you that I really enjoyed your latest mail and I wish we shall keep on like this because it's really fun to chat with you:). You asked me 2 questions I shall answer: First, I'm a frantic dancer and I like to swing on many types of music but I rather like the songs that are

"commercial" like Men in Black, Fat Boy Slim... I don't listen to them usually but it's great to dance in night clubs and anyway, the music that DJs use in discos only needs a good rythme to lead people to have fun and get mad on the podium! As far as Jordi, I'm sorry to tell you that his song was nothing but a try: it was indeed the first time that such a young boy sang and succeeded in music showbusiness but it didn't last for long and he was very quickly forgotten... (his star was quickly on the wane) anyway, I found it rather entertaining but a bit childish! Secondly, you asked me whether I had ever been to Strasbourg ; I went there a long time ago to visit friends of my parents and had an outlook of the town: it is beautiful and the Stasbourgais are mostly greeting and nice people ; the surroundings are lovely too and there are many walks to do in forests (the most famous one is "la Foret Noire", which is on the boarder between France and Germany). The landscape is charming, you may enjoy spending a few times there. And I forgot to mention that the dishes are numerous (not only choucroute did I eat there... thank God, for I hate choucroute!!) and delicious. This part of France has long been influenced by German culture and still is, which make it very interesting for a foreign person like you. Strasbourg is also where the European Parliament is located and therefore, the town is widely opened to the European Community.

Hope that those details will help you to make a decision when it comes to next year! Have a nice week-end and keep on having a hectic life!

Bye bye et à tres bientot par courrrier, chere correspondante!

C H A R L E S

Mon cher, drole Charles,

Dans une semaine je serai dans mon concours pour Miss Latina :) Toute cette semaine, je dois pratiquer la danse que tous les contestants feront ensemble. Nous allons danser un merengue qui s'appelle <Sauvemente> par Elvis Crespo; c'est une chouette chanson. Les mots disent quelque chose comme ci: Doucement, embrasse-moi car je veux sentir tes levres en n'embrassant encore. Nous aimons bien cette chanson ici, et on la joue beaucoup dans les danses latins. Merci beaucoup pour l'information! Je vois que je ne dois pas m'inquieter pour la variation des provisions a Strasbourg :) Je pense que je l'aimerai bien. Je suis allée a la Cote d'Azur et a Paris au printemps de 1996. Les habitants de la Cote d'Azur etaient tellement gentils, sauf un vendeur bete qui n'aimait pas mon francais. Beaucoup de monde pensait que j'etais le guide parce que j'ai les cheveux obscures (maintenant ils sont colores de bourgogne - un couleur comme le vin) et les yeux bruns, et je parlais mieux que les autres. J'avais eu seulement deux annees scolaires de francais, et ils pensaient que j'en avais plus. J'aime danser aux chansons comme "Men in Black" aussi. Mais pour moi, c'est plus difficile que danser les danses latins. Pour la musique comme celle de Will Smith, on doit improviser les pas, et je n'ai pas beaucoup d'experience. Mais pour la salsa, par exemple, il y a des pas deja etabli, et je peux les combiner comme je desire. Je dois sortir plus pour pouvoir danser mieux parce que j'ai commence a danser l'annee derniere. J'assistais a une ecole cretienne ou on ne danse pas parce que, d'apres une vieille fille, <la danse conduit au sexe>. Chez moi, on ne dansait non plus parce que ma famille va a un temple cretien qui defendre la danse. Mes parents dansaient beaucoup avant de devenir cretiens. Ma mere danse tres bien, et de temps en temps, elle danse pendant qu'elle nettoie la maison. Elle ne croit pas que la danse doit etre interdit, et elle m'a enseigne quelques pas de salsa. Mes parents savent que je danse maintenant, et ca leur laisse indifferents. Je vais continuer ma vie presse maintenant. Si tu as des questions pour moi, demande-moi quand tu vuex.

La future Miss Latina

ii) Barbara-Jean and Jérémy 1999

These e-mails were reorganised into subjects by Barbara-Jean before she sent them to Solange. Jérémy's contribution is in English and Barbara-Jean's in French, in bold type. I have reproduced the message exactly as they were. The correspondence is analysed in Sections 4.8.2.6 and 4.9.8.

CUISINE AND REGIONS

It is said that in France there is a wine for each "canton" (about 5 villages) and a cheese for each village. It is a bit exaggerated, but it is not entirely false (I know a place where each village has its wine, and all of them are very famous wines) Not only is there a lot of regional products, but there are loads of them

Hmmm-- nous n'avons rien comme ça aux États-Unis. Il y a des cuisines régionales, mais ceux sont pour les grandes régions (New England, West Coast) .)

Yes but an American state, is as large as France...I don't think America could have as many different products as France, since America was created a very short time ago. (compared to European countries)

Oui, mais en même temps, les États-Unis est un pays peuplé par les immigrants, donc nous avons beaucoup de la tradition et la cuisine ethnique. Par exemple, la famille de ma mère est italienne (mes arrière-grands-parents sont venus de l'Italie) et nous mangeons toujours la cuisine italienne chez ma grand-mère et souvent chez nous. Peut-être la cuisine ici n'est pas déterminé par région mais par origine de famille.

maybe, but this isn't American, cooking... its Italian/Irish/English/etc...cooking...

C'est vrai. Nous n'avons pas beaucoup de cuisine qui est vraiment américaine, sauf peut-être des hot dogs, mais je ne les considère comme cuisine!

IMPORT TAXES, BEEF AND HORMONES

This is really a misunderstanding... We consider that hormoned beef is dangerous for health, and that we should do something against it. Thus (French attitude) we ask the government to protect us i.e: to forbid it. In the U.S you would just say: "don't eat it" in France, we think it's the government's job to do this for us...And we can't understand that you block our products, since we do this to protect our health, and you respond to protect your economic interests, in France, this seems completely selfish and immoral

C'est intéressant. Aux États-Unis, on ne pense pas que l'utilisation des hormones dans le boeuf est dangereuse à la santé. Avec les hormones, il y a plus de la viande par vache, mais la qualité de la viande n'est pas inférieure.

I really do feel the difference between normal and hormoned beef...

Peut-être je n'ai mangé que le boeuf avec les hormones, donc je ne peux pas dire d'après mon expérience Et, oui, c'est la philosophie américaine que si on n'aime pas un produit, il faut le boycotter; pour nous, si on continue à acheter et à manger ce boeuf, on le trouve acceptable.

and the French one is if it isn't good, it should be forbidden, and it's the government's job to do so, with taxes etc...

a-t-il maintenant des impôts contre le boeuf avec les hormones?

I'm not sure, I didn't really follow the whole thing..

je n'ai pas su qu'il y a tellement des exports américains en France. Il me semble qu'il y a beaucoup de sentiment contre les américains en France. Penses-tu qu'il y en a? C'est quelque chose dont je n'ai jamais pensé d'avant.

I don't think that there is an important anti-American feeling in France, we're a bit jealous of your dominant position, we consider that being the world's most important comes with a few responsibilities B.T.W I didn't mention the problem of the U.S being considered as a world cop....Actually, we don't think that you are a World cop, but we think you should be...But then again, we don't consider the state the way you do: In France, the taxes are MUCH higher than in about any country.... but we consider that the government should give it back to us in about

every movement of life. In the U.S, the government, and especially the federal government, is considered to be dangerous, and should not look into private businesses.

Oui, c'est exactement ça. Les américains veulent aider avec les problèmes globales, arreter les guerres, etc, mais, en même temps, notre pays était fondé sur l'idée que tout le monde a le droit de déterminer leur propre destin. Donc, si nous essayons d'être les policiers du monde, nous volent ce droit des gens qui nous voulons aider. On prend leur liberté. En plus, nous n'oublions pas que notre propre pays était fondé par une grande guerre révolutionnaire et que nous avons eu besoin d'une guerre civile pour liberer les esclaves..... Donc nous ne voulons pas nous mêlons trop des affaires des autres.

How to intervene and not to interfere

exactement

UNEMPLOYMENT AND WELFARE

Unemployment is much higher in France, because in France you can survive without work (which is about impossible in the U.S. Moreover, in France nothing never works well... I mean that it is a part of French mentality to consider it that way, Unemployment is a serious problem, like the economic crisis, like the problems in Corsica, like the political affairs: French are never satisfied, and when we aren't satisfied, we don't try to change things the way american do (the american "do it") we call on the state, because we consider it is the state's job to make things work...

C'est vraiment une différence culturelle. Ici la philosophie est que si on n'est pas satisfait avec quelque chose, il faut le changer. Nous avons aux États-Unis un système qui s'appelle "welfare" qui donne de l'argent et de la nourriture aux pauvres. Cependant, on essaie toujours de reformer le système de welfare parce que recevoir de l'argent sans faire de travail est considéré comme presque malhonnête. Il y a beaucoup de gens qui s'opposent à "welfare" parce qu'il rend paresseux les gens qui en reçoivent.

I think the welfare state isn't quite the same thing than our unemployment system: it looks the same, but the philosophy is different: in America, it is just to allow them to eat, In France, you can really live for a very long time with these subsidies, and a very correct life.

Avec les grands impôts en France, je peux voir comment il y a assez de l'argent pour soutenir les gens qui n'ont pas de boulot.

FILMS

It's almost the same problem: we don't consider that movies are an economic product, but Art. thus, we are ready to look at your movies, and we consider you should do the same (cultural exchanges) but what happens in France, is that the whole cinema market is flooded by american superproduction. We can't understand that. We consider cinema as art, not as a business. a film Director tries to pass a message...

Oui, tu as raison, aux États-Unis on ne considère les films comme l'art. C'est un moyen de s'exprimer, bien sûr, mais le but principal d'un film est de plaire au public et, en le faisant, de gagner de l'argent. Donc, les films sont en générale considérés comme un produit qu'on vend. C'est comme le boeuf, si on les aime, on payera pour les regarder, sinon, on ne les regardera. Donc, si les français regardent les films qu'on exporte en France, les américains penseraient que les français les aiment et en veulent de plus. Le resultat est l'inondation des films américains en France dont tu as écrit.

In France, Film authors are considered quite the same way as writers....

Je pense qu'aux États-Unis même avec les écrivains, il y a ceux qui écrivent pour gagner beaucoup de l'argent (comme Danielle Steele ou Stephen King---les "bestsellers") et ceux qui écrivent la vraie littérature. Les bestsellers gagnent

beaucoup de l'argent, et les autres sont ce qu'on étudie dans les cours littéraires (dont je n'aime pas la plupart!).

In France, Bestseller writers are considered lucky writers, but not more commercials than other writers... as a matter of fact, even writers like Stephen King are considered the same way than classical writers.

iii) **Leila and Frédéric, 1997**

Extracts from the correspondence between Frédéric and Leila, analysed in Sections 4.8.4.2 and 4.8.4.7

1) Leila's first message, which was sent to the teachers and shown to the whole class.

Cheres Elizabeth et Andree,

Bonjour! Je m'appelle Leila Dobson. Je suis dans la classe de francais de Solange Richards. Je suis tres hereuse pouvoir travailler avec vos classe. Je pense que ce projet est une merveilleuse idée! Je suis tres agite commence dire avec vos etudiants. Maintenant, je dirai Bonjour et Bienvenue et j'espere que nous purrons parler ensemble bientot.

Sincerement

Leila Dobson

P.S. Je sui desolee qu'il n'y a pas les accents!

2) First e-mail from Frédéric, after choosing Leila as a keypal.

Wed. 22 Jan 1997

Dear Leila,

Hello! I'm Frederic Cam and I'm in the fourth level language group of the ENSTBr. I was demanded to choose one name, and yours has popped out. I'm also very glad to have a relationship with students of a foreign country and I hope I will match with the image of a correspondant you may have. Of course, we don't know each other, that's why I don't really know what to talk about: then, the faster you answer, the faster I know and we will be able to correspond in a productive way. Tell me what you like, the topics you have in mindanything you want.

Yours sincerely

Frederic Cam

3) Leila, e-mail 2

Wed. 22 Jan 1997

Dear Frederic

I am not sure if I should write in English or French so I chose English for this first time. I am a freshman in my second college semester of French. I took French all four years of high school and am now in level five. I am studying to be a Business major with a minor in French.

I am 18 years old and am living on my own for the first time. I am originally from Jefferson City, Missouri, the state capitol. I work in the cosmetics department of a drugstore—Walgreens. I have also modelled for several years and do some acting from time to time.

I am very excited to have someone to write to in France. I was very surprised to find your message tonight. I didn't even know we (my class) were getting specific people to write to. I am very glad we are, though. It think it will be better this way. Well, I am very happy to hear from you. You can write to me about anything. I am eager to know about you, and your culture etc. I have always dreamed of going to France.

Sincerely

Leila Dobson ☺

APPENDIX XX Page 6 EXTRACTS FROM E-MAIL CORRESPONDENCE

4) Frédéric, e-mail 3

Tue 28 Jan 1997

Dear Leila,

First I'd like to say that you can write either in French or in English, as you like. Second, I have only told you my name and surname; I am sorry for not having introduced myself, so here we go : I will soon be 21 years old, I am in first year of the ENSTBr, an ingénieur school specialized in the field of telecommunications.

I don't have a job, although I have looked for one, because Brest isn't what you would call a big city, so the proposals aren't very numerous. Anyway, I often spend my weekends in Paris where my girlfriend lives. I suppose Paris would please you more than Brest, and you would be right: if you wanted to visit France, I wouldn't advice you to come to Bretagne: I hate it!

You say you are to be a famous actress: would you mind send me an autograph, or better, a picture with an autograph on it? I could make adds for you...(I'm joking: I've never been in the USA, then I don't know anything about the humour you may have; but please tell me if mine bothers you).

Please write soon

Yours sincerely,
Frederic

5) Leila, e-mail 4

Tue 28 Jan 1997

Dear Frederic,

I'll write in English this once more time because I don't have much time. Your humor is perfect. I really don't think there is much difference between our cultures in things like that.

Your girlfriend lives in Paris, huh? I wish my boyfriend lived somewhere exciting, but he only lives back in my hometown of Jefferson City. I doubt that I'll be a famous actress, I only have a very, very small part, but it's exciting for me just the same. I'll stick with modeling for a few more years at least. I you ever come to the USA I wouldn't' come to Missouri either. It's not very interesting. I wouldn't care where I went in France—it would all be exciting to me.

There's not much going on in my life right now. My roommate and I are fighting A LOT. We were warned never to room with your best friend in high school and we didn't listen. It's kind of sad. I've known her since the second grade.

I guess I could tell you a bit about my family. I lived with my mom and my stepdad, but they've been married since I was six so I consider him my father. I have an older brother who's twenty-four and has his own apartment in Jefferson City. My biological father lives in California. He's divorced from the woman he married after my mother, and my half-sister, who's thirteen lives with him. We've never been very close. He has an e-mail account and since I've been to college we e-mail each other everyday. It's been weird having a relationship with him for the first time in my life.

Well, write back soon and let me know more about you. I'm so excited about being able to do this!

Sincerely yours

Leila☺

6) Frédéric, e-mail 5

Thu 30 Jan 1997

Dear Leila,

I'm in a hurry, so I won't write you a long letter this time. I wanted you to know that, for the next two weeks, I'll be in an exam period, so don't care when you don't get an answer from me the day after you send me something.

F***** exams, you know what it is. I'll be tested in English, German, Computer Science, and Signal Processing: sound exciting, doesn't it?

Roommate problems: I suppose you won't have to bare [sic] yours too long; you just have to be patient, until you live with a boyfriend who will be so pleasant that you won't have to go out of your home anymore. That's what I wish for you. I intended to share a flat with my girlfriend in Paris this year, but I didn't get a highschool in Paris but in Brest (because of my rank in the ending test of "Ecole Préparatoire"). Anyway, I still have this project in my mind. Wait and see.

Big kisses, as we say in France. Bye-bye.

Frederic

7) Leila, e-mail 6

Sun 2 Feb 1997

Bonjour Frederic,

Did I ever tell you have a very easy name??? My friend in my French class is writing to a guy named Bruno. Of course you probably pronounce the name Frederic different than we do here.

I've always dreamed of going to France. If I ever actually get there I think I would just weep for joy for about a day. I don't know if you all have MTV there or not but there's a show on there called "Road Rules" where they travel and right now they are in Europe. I watch regularly just to see parts of France. I do have some friends that live in Switzerland though.

J'ai alle a la maison ce week-end. Mon petit ami a mal a le (knee) de joue au basket-ball. Je sens tres mal pour lui. (I'm sorry I know that was probably very bad grammar. It's hard sometimes because the French say some things so differently). Ma (roommate) et moi sont d'accord avec l'autre maintenant. Je l'haie quelquefois et je sens tres mal. Je suis le president de mon etage ici a l'universite et je viens de un (meeting). J'etais tres sommeil.

I can't do anymore French right now. I had an idea to tell you that you might not even have in your country. During my last two years in high school (and even now) I was a Big Sister. It's an organization when adult volunteers are paired with a child that is considered to be disadvantaged somehow. The child might be from a bad part of town, their parents might be divorced, or anything like that. The adult (Big Brother or Sister) just spends time with them once a week and gives them the attention they might not be receiving in their everyday life. It's a really wonderful organisation and now I'll have a little sister that I will love for the rest of my life.

I like all sorts of literature. I read the "Pelican Brief" as well and also have read all the John Grisham books they made into movies (which is all of them!) What books I would recommend?hmmm.... I really haven't read any recent literature. School keeps me so busy. I've been sticking to "light reading" lately. I love to read, though. Let me think about it.

It's great you're enjoying life. You can't take everything too seriously or you'll burn out. I had an accident last semester where I ended up with third-degree burns on my leg and I couldn't walk. I missed a month of school too. Things like that really make you realize what's important in life.

More later. This is a really long letter ☺

Much love, Leila ☺

P.S. What is "gros bisous"?

8) Leila, e-mail 7

Tue 4 Feb 1997

Frederic

Just a quick note to tell you that I read your bio in your class's webpage! It was quite amusing! Mushrooms that make you feel funny when you eat them, huh? Not in America. I hope you're doing wonderfully in your finals. I won't take too much of your time—you should be studying! Bon chance. J'espere que tu as un bon semaine.

Leila ☺

9) Leila, e-mail 8

Dear Frederic,

I assume my last message got to you. I received a message from the mailing service saying that they were having problems connecting with your account—I was worried.

Here's my plan. I will now attempt to write in French (without accents – sorry!) and what I absolutely am having too much trouble translating, then I'll convert to English. I'll apologize ahead of time if I confuse you. Here goes:

Ma (roommate) et moi avons parle et je pense que nous sommes bien maintenant. Je l'aime mais elle me fait tres fache ! c'est tres difficile d'habiter avec quelqu'un. L'annee prochaine je pense que je vais habiter avec mon petit ami (je pense que c'est le mot). Mais j'aurai aller a l'université different parce que nous serons a Kansas City. La vie de l'universite etait tres difficile quand j'ai venu ici dans August dernier parce qu'il n'était pas ici. (I got used to it though).

Je sui tres desolee entendre que tu as les examens maintenant. Ce n'est pas bon. Je 'aime pas les examens. Ma classe francaise est regarde les films maintenant—les memes films en francais et en anglais. Par exemple Neuf Mois et Nine Months. C'est tres interessant !

That's enough, back to English. I must go now. I'm going to the library to use the Internet so I can check out your class's webpage. [...] I wish you much luck on your exams—stay calm and get lots of rest and I know you'll do fine. I will continue to write to you throughout your exam period even if I don't hear from you. You need some words of encouragement right now.

Big Kisses (as you say!)

Leila ☺

10) Frédéric, e-mail 9

Wed 5 Feb 1997

I have just read what you've recently sent so quickly.

Gros bisous means 'Big kisses' in a friendly way.

Yes, I store all the letters you send so if you have other problem like that just tell me. For this time I don't know how to use "attachments", so I'll send your letter back in the traditional way.

Yes we also have MTV, CNN, NBC, thanks to satellites. I don't watch TV a lot, I used to 2 years ago, and what I preferred was a one-man show with a totally amazing man: it was at night; his name was Ray Cokes, if I remember. Ever seen it?

Roommate is "co-locataire" in French, that is to say someone who rents (or hire? I don't know the proper word) something with another.

No time any more. I'll write soon, I promise.

Gros bisous, then. A bientôt

Leila

11) Leila, e-mail 10

Wed 5 Feb 1997

Dear Frederic

Bonjour! Bonjour!

Je suis tres heureuse que nous devenons les amis. Aussi je suis heureuse que j'ai pris cette classe. C'est un merveilleux projet!

I've heard of Ray Cokes before. I don't know if I've ever watched him, though. Watching tv is America's favourite pastime. I try to balance myself out. Watch a little t.v., study, do some recreational reading and listen to music; You can't focus your energies all one thing—it would be a waste.

Ma co-locataire et moi sont tres agreables! J'haie se facher avec elle. More later. Good luck on any remaining exams you may have. Thank-you for sending that letter back to me. I'm sure my professor appreciates it also. And thank you for helping me with my French, now I know some new words!

Gros bisous,

Leila ☺

12) Frédéric, e-mail 11

Wed. 5 Feb 1997

Salut Leila,

Cette fois, je vais t'imposer quelques efforts linguistiques.

Je suis ravi de voir que tous les Americains ne justifient pas le sterereotype que nous en faisons parfois en France: regarder la television 24 heures sur 24, en mangeant du pop-corn et des hambugers, avec un petit Coca pour faire passer tout ça. Don't be upset: I'm sure there are as many such people in France as in the USA. This idea only comes from the fact that 'you' sent us MacDonald.

I'm glad to see that things get better between your roommate and yourself. A good argue from time to time can be very profitable, doesn't it?

The day after tomorrow there will be the English written test: writing to you is probably the best way to practice my English, and above all it's both interesting and funny. I learn a lot about civilisation particularities of your country through your letters and I realise that we aren't, as you said before, so intellectually different. That breaks the last prejudices I had and I would enjoy going to the USA sooner than I firstly intended. I only hope a lot of people there are like you very pleasant and open-minded.

Thank you for everything.

More later, as you say.

13) Leila, e-mail 12 A

Thu 6 Feb 1997

Frederic

Guess what? I'm an idiot. I just sent you a letter two seconds ago and again forgot to send my teacher a copy. Do you know how to forward? There should be a command with your e-mail when instead of sending, you can choose to forward and all you have to do is put my address in the TO section and send it back to me and still have a copy for yourself. I am so sorry. I'm just accustomed to immediately sending it after I finish writing. Merci! I'll try to quit being so stupid.

Gros Bisous

Leila☺

14) Leila, e-mail 12B. Referred to in the previous e-mail, forwarded to Leila and Solange by Frédéric.

Fri 7 Feb 1997

Salut Frédéric

Thank you for the very kind letter. I am so pleased to be part of this project if nothing more than the stereotype of Americans was disproven in at least one French mind ☺ I tend not to believe in stereotypes myself. Most Americans do though. There are a lot of Americans who have no interest at all with other cultures and think the United States is the most important country in the world. You limit yourself as a person so much by doing that. It is essential to keep an open mind in everything that you do. Most Americans think that the French are rude and snobby. They eat bread all the time and drink wine at every meal. It's silly to think such things because every person is unique.

I have understood everything you have written in French just about which amazes me. I thought I would have a hard time because even though as I've read numerous stories, it's still more proper French and most people use more slang in conversation settings. Although you're probably doing that for my benefit also, but that's okay.

Last thing written in English—I am told that possibly next Thursday our two classes will be participating in our first teleconference. (We also have to wake up earlier to go to class earlier which will be hard on me—I am NOT a morning person. I am very excited about this. I think we are also taking pictures of our class via digital camera to send to you all as well.

Je veut te dire que je suis tres heurus que tu recois me ecrire. Je te trouve un intelligent home et interessant. Aussi, dans ta letter deuxieme tu dis que tu as (almost) vingt-et-un ----si quand est ton anniversaire? Mon anniversaire ets le vingt-quatre de mai. J'aurai dix-neuf ans. Comment tes examens vont? (Je suis desolee -je pense qui est mauvais—la grammaire)

[paragraph in English]

Good luck on your English exam. From what I can tell you'll do wonderfully--- you're very good.

Gros Bisous

Leila☺

15) Leila, e-mail 13

Thu 13 Feb 1997

Dear Frederic,

First of all, thank you for sending the other letter back to me. I've been very forgetful lately, hopefully it doesn't last long.

The e-mail here at school was not working for about 5 days and I did not receive any letter with web addresses from you.

We took pictures with a digital camera to send to your class on Tuesday. They decided to take them outside and mine was terrible, but I didn't want to take it over. I was cold and miserable.

My French professor approached me with the possibility of studying in France next semester. They're trying to start an exchange with the possibility of studying in France next semester. They're trying to start an exchange with a business school over there and with our own. Since I'm a business major and a French minor well, we shall see.

I hope you do well on your last exams. (Bon chance!) I missed talking to you for the last few days!

Gros Bisous

Leila ☺ (I'm quite attached to that phrase now)

16) Frederic, e-mail 14

Sun 16 Feb 1997

Dear Leila,

It's been a long time, huh?

I was very sad last time when I learned that my message didn't get through: I don't remember very well what I had written on it, so it's lost.

Never mind.

You say you may come and study in France for a while! As I have already written, it's probably the best way to learn a language. Good luck for this purpose, it may be very profitable for you.

So, where's that awful picture of yours? I'd be glad to see it. Anyway, nobody is ever ready to pose for such "photomaton" pictures, and they are always terrible, so no regrets!

I wonder if you have access to our home page, and if there are our pictures on it; if you could see them, you would say we are all awful guys, I guess.

I wanted to warn you that we, I mean the freshmen, are on holiday on Thursday of this week. I go to Paris, and I won't have any access to Internet anymore. So, I'll stop writing to you for nearly two weeks, I'm sorry.

Yes, holidays: I'm so happy to leave this school, to get fresh air, to spend some time with my girlfriend and so on ...

I hope everything is all right for you, and as usual, I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Frederic, qui t'envoie ses bons baisers de Brest.

17) Leila, e-mail 15

Mon 17 Feb 1997

Cher Frederic

Je suis tres malade et cette letter sera petite. (I think that's close grammar).

I'm sorry that you won't be able to write for two weeks. I'll have to write you a lot so you'll have tons of wonderful letters waiting for you when you return. How did you do on your exams? I got an A on my Communications test and I also had an Astronomy test and an Economics test last week but I don't know how I did on those yet. How was your Valentine's Day? (How do you say that in French?) Mine was wonderful. I hope you are doing well. Be safe over your vacation but have fun!

Gros Bisous (Am I spelling that right?)

Leila☺

18) Frederic, e-mail 16

Tue 18 Feb 1997

Hi Leila,

Yes, you're spelling that right when you write Gros bisous. About Valentine's Day, we also do it that way in France but I have to put it off: the reason for that, as you know is that I will only see my girlfriend on Thursday night, when I am on holiday. But I'm ready: I've already bought her present (some jewel: it's not very original, but it always pleases her).

Congratulations on your A; I knew you were the best! Don't worry for the other ones, I'm sure you've done very well one more time. One question: what do you exactly study in Astronomy? That's a field I would be interested in but unfortunately I don't have any lesson about it.

We are nearly on holiday. (I may be single-minded about it, as you can notice.) so of course our exams are finished. I'm in the same situation as you are,

I'm waiting for the results, and it will last until nearly two weeks after the end of the holidays. Let's wait and see

What a good idea to write an uncountable amount of letters, so that I will know everything about you when I come back here!

I'm gonna be repetitive: where's your so smart picture?....

Allez, a bientot. Bye bye, darling.

Frederic

19) Leila, e-mail 17

Tues 25 Feb 1997

Cher Frederic

Nothing much has happened in a while. I'm angry at my father and my roommate but I hate being mad at people.

Yesterday was Student Leader Appreciation Day and it was fun. I received presents all day. It felt like my birthday!

I may be moving out of my room! Yea!

We are supposed to be having a teleconference early Thursday morning on March 6th. I think it'll be the end of the day for you. We shall see one another for the first time! Odd that you can learn so much about another person and not even know what they look like! Dans ma classe de francaise nous regardons "Trois Hommes et un Couffin" et "Three Men and a Baby". J'aime le film francais. Different senses of humor between the two cultures oftentimes. C'est tres interessant!

Gros Bisous

Leila ☺

20) Frederic, e-mail 18

Mon 03 Mar 1997

Dear Leila,

I'm back. The holidays were excellent. I hope you're not busy, nor tired, dear! ..

My face is as pale as when I lived, because Paris isn't well-known for sun-bathing (proper word?), but at least I had some fresh air, I spend my time doing anything but working Well, good holidays.

What is the name of the film you played in? Do you know if it is to be translated and broadcasted in France? Anyway, what about those signatures I asked you? How do you want me to do your advertising if I don't have any matter? (Remark: I assume you wouldn't mind if I take percentage of the sum I get from itA manager has got to be paid , hasn't he?) I know a star!

What is the mess about your roommate and your father? It may be the moon: in France, old women often say so when someone is in a bad mood. It's a way like another to reassure yourself. Anyway, I hope you'll pull through.

One more thing: it may be that the videoconference could be delayed (for about one week) because there would be too few of us attending to Thursday's. We also see Trois homes et un couffin, and 9 mois.

See you!

Frederic

21) Leila, e-mail 19

Tue 4 Mar 1997

Cher Frederic,

Welcome back! I hope you had a wonderful vacation. My spring break is coming up soon.

You can be my manager—any time! I'm going to film the movie next month so I probably won't be out for quite a few months.! It's called "Common Sense"—I don't know if it'll be in France.

I've been so busy lately and haven't gotten to e-mail as much as I would like. I'll try harder.

We're summarizing children's books for you guys now. I'm doing "The Giving Tree" (my all time favourite) and "Amelia Bedelia". They're both great books. You used the proper word in your last letter. I don't remember what it was but it was correct.

Looks as if the teleconference has been pushed back about a month. My French professor is going to France in about two weeks and we have spring break vacation from March 22nd to April 1st which I'm really looking forward to.

I really enjoy hearing from you. I don't know what I'll do this summer when I don't have access to e-mail or internet. I hope I'll have e-mail wherever I am next semester.

I only have one more French class to go before I have a minor. I'm pretty excited about that—I'll only be a sophomore.

Well, let me know what's going on in you life! I'm delighted that you're back!

Gros Bisous,

Leila☺

22) Frédéric, e-mail 20

Wed 5 Mar 1997

Dear Leila,

You know what, I can see you! Do you remember, "Bonjour, je m'appelle Leila . J'habite a Jefferson"?

You've guessed: I've just found your school's web page. I noticed you said "je suis le president": thanks to your so tasty picture, I assume you're a girl, so let's say "la presidente", huh? (I'm joking: take it easy. Tell me if you're upset at my criticism. Anyway, I surely make loads of mistakes when I write to you.) .

What a pity the teleconference is put off: it seems it will take some time before the opportunity shows up again. So sad!

Don't worry for not having been able to send me as many messages you would have wanted to: haven't I had a harsh period one month ago? So it was your turn to be busy: no problem.

For the summer holidays or the next semester: it won't be as convenient as e-mail but maybe we could go on (if you mind of course) writing the ordinary way? (We'll speak about it if you're interested, and give our real addresses to each other: just tell me what you think about it.)

Could you explain the phrase "to have a minor", please?

(And a somophore (sic) as well: I'm sorry to be so bad cultured.)

To conclude, what's that story with the books you sum up? Will you put it on your web page, or what? Anyway, it's an excellent idea.

Bye. Write to me as soon as you can

Frederic

23) Leila, e-mail 21

Fri 7 Mar 1997

Cher Frederic

Ha! Ha! So I made a few mistakes—I noticed them myself but I turned in my summary late so it was much shorter than everyone else's and I still have to make a bunch of corrections but I haven't had time. But, since I am a girl and all....

Such a terrible picture. It seems really blurry. We were standing outside and it was about 20 degrees—je n'etais pas hereuse.

Okay, now for your explanations—There are four levels to high school and college: freshman, sophomore, junior and senior—in that order. So a sophomore is the second level of schooling. As for a minor—in college you have to declare a major and sometimes a minor. My major is marketing which will be what my studies will focus on and what my degree will be. A minor is the second field you studied to qualify for the next subject that you're most qualified in once you've graduated (Did that make sense?) I hope so. [...]

I would be very interested in continuing contact with you and exchanging addresses once summer comes!

Gros bisous

Leila ☺

24) Leila, e-mail 22

Tue 11 Mar 1997

Cher Frederic,

Salut! I sent you some stuff during the French class this morning—I hope you get them. I saw your picture! I didn't know how to work attachments so I got the computer expert in our class to help me! Thank you so much for your trouble—now we're even. I still think it's crazy us talking for this amount of time as we do and never knowing what the other person looks like! But now we're even. I sent you another picture that was taken when it wasn't below freezing outside.

As for your letter, the beach? What are you talking about? This state is nowhere near the beach: Most people who live here have never even seen a beach! But, lucky for me I have a swimming pool at home! Also, we have one of the largest man-made lakes in the country (if not the largest) so this fulfils all of our water needs. Let me know if you receive my flower. I love the internet- you can do all kinds of things.

As for what's going on in my life. I just took an economics test that I don't think I did well on. Oh well—it's over now. My roommate and I are getting along amazingly well for as long as it lasts. [...]

Good luck on your surfing aspirations. I've never surfed in my life. Actually, I'm beginning to think I have a slight fear of very deep water but I don't have much of an opportunity to test this out.

Sowhen are you coming to America? I really think you'd like it here. It would be quite an interesting experience –and of course you'd visit me. I'm still trying to get my friend, Brendan, to come back here from Switzerland to see me but he says it's my turn. Oh well—someday I hope to make it to Europe!

I must go now—let me know if you received everything. I'm going to start making myself write more—I have to take advantage of e-mail while I still have it! Bye dear!

Gros Bisous

Leila☺.

25) Leila, e-mail 23- a reply to a message from Frédéric which was not forwarded.

Thu 13 Mar 1997

Cher Frederic,

You are quite the charmer aren't you? That's okay, I like charming guys! I also sent you a virtual flower—I hope it gets to you. I sent you a chain letter of sorts also. I receive a million of them a day—most of them are dirty jokes but this one was pretty good and I thought it showed quite a lot about American college life.

So—tell me about your reactions to the two American versions of "Three Men and a Baby" and "Nine Months". "Three Men and a Baby" also has a sequel (so very American) and it's called "Three Men and a Little Lady". They're both pretty good.

I have the biggest research paper! I have to have ten pages and an annotated bibliography by next Friday! Yuck! I need to get it started. What is the word "Plantureuse"?

So—when exactly are you coming to reside at my house for those three months, hmm? I assume during the summer months because the pool's closed the rest of the time! [...]

Spring Break starts next Saturday so you won't hear from me again until April 2nd or so. Hopefully, our little teleconference will be soon after that!

A bientôt, gros bisous, Leila ☺

26) Leila, e-mail 24

Tue 18 Mar 1997

Cher Frederic

Bonjour! C'est necessaire que j'ecris en francais parce que ma prof me dit.

Ou-es tu ? Tu es trop occupe comme moi, probably (je ne sais pas le mot). Mes vacances commencent vendredi et je n'ecris pas jusqu'a (je pense que c'est le mot) le deuxieme avril et je suis agite ! Ecris-moi s'il vous plait. Je voudrais entendre de toi (je sais c'est tres la grammaire mauvaise) avant je laisse pour mes vacances.

Gros bisous

Leila ☺

27) Leila, e-mail 25

Thu. 3 Apr 1997

Cher Frederic

Bonjour! J'etais retourne a l'universite! J'ai eu les vacances fantastiques! Comment ca va? J'espere que tu es bon! Je n'aime pas que je n'ai pas (e-mail)

Okay, now a little bit of English. I spent my break relaxing. I spent a lot of time with my boyfriend, which was nice. I had three interviews for a job that I really wanted so I'm happy because I think that I got it. (It's a Dillar's—a very nice department store)

Mon film est ce mois. Je n'entends rien maintenant mais j'entendrai quelquechse.

Our teleconference is tomorrow I believe. I was so stupid this morning and got up early for my French class at 9:30 and nobody was there. I had to go back through my e-mail to remember what the schedule was. I just stayed up since I already was. I wish I would have slept in, though. I hope that you've been well- I'm anxious to hear from you!

Gros Bisous

Leila ☺

28) Frédéric, e-mail 26

Thu. 03 April 1997

Hi Leila,

Good holidays, huh? Personnally, mine are in two weeks now, so everything is very well.

What have you done for the videoconference? I was so sad you weren't there, giving me a chance to see you moving this time! In your previous message you said you didn't remember the schedule, that's probably the reason.....?

Anyway, I'm glad to hear from you again: my English is weakening, and moreover, don't forget you're my only link to the USA...so I was cut from the American civilisation.

Something that I realise I have never told you: before living on my own here in Brest, I was settled at my parent's, in Baden-Baden, Germany; and sometimes we used to go to Heidelberg, a student city, where some American military forces still live; thanks to the fact that my father works for the "Forces

Francaises Stationnees en Allemagne" we have access to the US barracks, shops and sport centers. Then we can buy cloth, oil, and so on without taxes: a kind of Duty Free, without the airport.

I hope the weather is as good for you as it is here (or at least it was until today): during the last weekend my girlfriend and I went to the beach; even if the water is still too cold to bath, we spent a long time sunbathing, relaxing and speaking with one another. It remained us with the time we were in Blanes, near Barcelona in Spain, during the last summer: after the final exams we thought we had deserved such holidays so we went by car to Blanes and settled in a camp (some doubts about the word: a place you can fix a "tente" (?) and leave the car.....)

It was delightful; I dream so much of holidays I'm nearly there.

For your film, you will please let me know the impact it will have on the public, if it is in the Box OfficeGood luck.....

So I've said everything until next time, when I know more of what you become.

Please write soon; "big kisses". Bye.

29) Leila, e-mail 27

Thu. 10 April.

Frédéric,

OK here's what happened with the teleconference—in English. Basically I got my days mixed up. I went to class and no one was there. I went to the computer lab to check my e-mail and read the letter that said our preparation for the conference was at 7.00PM on April 2, and the conference was between 9-10:00 A.M. April 3. Since I thought it was the second that day I continued to e-mail while you all were still having the teleconference and missed the whole thing. I realized at lunch my mistake. I was so upset I wanted to cry. It was devastating. I heard it was wonderful though.

More in English because I'm in a hurry---We made a videotape for your class today in French class and I showed off my room (where I live and sleep) on the video. It should be interesting for your class. We toured part of campus. I'll miss you dearly over summer vacation. We will exchange home addresses before the end of the semester so we can keep in contact. I hope we're having another teleconference soon; I can't wait.

Gros Bisous

Leila ☺

30) Leila, e-mail 28

Fri 25 April 1997

Frederic,

Thank you for writing back so soon. I'm trying to write as much as possible. I'll only be here three more weeks I believe.

I was on the news last week talking about the teleconference. It was exciting! There's going to be an article in the city newspaper today. Lauren, Jane and I for our final French project are going to do a picture study of American life and put it on the web page. It should be interesting. I find your jokes very funny, by the way I look forward to your letters all the time.

I hope that I don't make you feel awkward by my own jokes- I am also very attached to my boyfriend. Maybe if we had met sooner and lived in the same country.....but in the meantime, I'll still tease you about coming to the US to be with me and hope your girlfriend doesn't come and hunt me down. My boyfriend is very, very jealous. It gets on my nerves sometimes but I get over it. [.....]

I think that I may take a summer class over break because then by the end of next semester I will move up to a junior level ahead of everyone else. I received a lot of extra credits last semester because I tested very high on the language placement test and skipped French 101, 102 and 201.

By the way, how tall is 1.64m? We go by feet in the US and I don't remember how to convert meters into feet. I'm pretty short too—only 5 feet and 4 inches. So I'll never be Cindy Crawford or anything.

I had a bunch of tests this week but I think I did really well. I didn't do so well on my tests last week, though.

So, this summer you will be in Germany? Will your girlfriend still be living in Paris? Long distance relationships are hard—I've learned that this year being away at school. There has to be a lot of trust in order to work.

I really, really hope we continue to write the traditional way long after this project is done. Even though we tease each other sometimes about romance, I've come to value our friendship and I do care about you and your life. I hope your girlfriend doesn't mind if you continue a correspondence with me. My boyfriend will be jealous but I have to ignore him sometimes or I would not have any male friends. I'm going to put my parent's address at the end of this letter, that way any letters you write me will somehow get to me through my parents. Please write back soon. I'm really sorry there's no French in this but I promise that the next letter will have at least 10 French sentences in it. Take care of yourself.

Big Kisses

Love, Leila ☺

P.S. Don't worry about your charming words. You can charm me all you want!

31) Frédéric, e-mail 29

Sun. 27 Apr 1997

Leila,

First of all, 1.64 m means 5,38 feet.

Second, when people know each other as we do, they usually use 'tu' in their sentences. (Young children use it for everybody, because they learn only later that they have to say 'vous' for grown-ups like their teachers for example)

You're happy my holidays are finished: I don't except that now I can write to you whenever I want.

In fact, this letter won't be very personal (even though I would have liked it to be). I'd like to tell you what I felt when I read the book you've studied at school: The giving tree.

I've got the feeling that it's a kind of criticism of mankind :

- an ecological criticism:

The little boy of the book always gets something from the tree, in the same way as man use the nature to harvest everything they need. And at last, the tree has given everything he had to the boy, he is nearly dead, and the boy as well: that looks like an image for men who don't care about the nature's health, and who are doomed if Mother Earth dies in some way.

- a general criticism:

The little boy, once again, always receives and never gives. Maybe the author would like us to be aware that we often are too much selfish not only towards the nature but also towards other people (the tree can speak in the book: he is nearly human)

And a remark: Don't you think there is an opposition between the pictures, the contents of the book on the one hand, and the author and what he looks like on the other hand, (That is of course a very subjective and unwise point of view, but I couldn't hand feeling that when I first looked at it.)

Now tell me: when exactly are we going to stop those internet letters? And will you be able to re-start doing it next year, or will you be in another school where there will be no Web connection?

My girlfriend's jealousy: you already know she lives in Paris; well, when I am here and she's not, I haven't many contacts with the other students here in the school: but there is one of them who is my "binome", that's to say we do houseworks together, and nearly all the marks we get are the same (in order to learn to work another way that alone, which we did until this year). Listen, she is jealous of him, in a way, because he can talk to me and be with me whenever he wants! But I laugh at her when she tells me such things. The fact that she's so possessive doesn't bother me: I find it an evidence of her love. Maybe we, French, expect the people we love to be jealous and we would be suspicious if they weren't.

For those reasons I can't really think of visiting you (I mean as a friend, let's not afraid your boyfriend) but you know I would like it very much. It could be difficult for us to understand each other at first, but I think it's a matter of a week (you may have noticed I'm not as self-confident in speaking English as in written: I have not time to think about what I will say....) I'd love to come and "charm you all I want" anyway.

Love,
Frédéric

32) Leila, e-mail 30

Sun 27 Apr 1997

Cher Frédéric,

Bonjour! Je suis tres heureuse que tu m'ecrit vite. (I know that's the wrong word). Aujourd'hui, je suis malade. Je travaille de neuf heures du matin jusqu'a cinq heures et demi ce soir. Je suis tres fatigee aussi. Hier, je conduis a The Lake of the Ozarks voir mon petit ami. Nous avons mange et avons vu un film et nous avons joue (mini golf). Il etait fache a moi parce que j'ai gagne le match. Il est tres (competitive even) avec moi. Mes mots en anglais sont dans les (parentheses). Ha, ha ..c'est m'amusantes.

Now for a little English. You make some very good points about the book "The Giving Tree". I believe the point of the book is to, in a way, show the child the point of view of the tree, which is the only way to perceive the boy's acts as selfishness. However, I do not think the entire theme of the story is selfishness. Misuse (I don't know if that's even an actual English word!) of the environment is also illustrated as well. But I also believe the complexity of humans and the simplicity of nature is also illustrated. The boy wasn't satisfied until he had taken everything, yet the tree was satisfied merely with the attention. I like the story though. It was one of my favourites as a child. [...] It's really nice to have an intelligent conversation with someone. It's so hard to do such things here because Americans are so preoccupied with appearances and other people's opinions of them. [paragraph in English about her private life]

It's just really weird. Really, really weird. Tres bizarre. La jalousie de mon petit ami (By the way, his name is Pete)..... I only mind it sometimes. It's cute at times because I know he cares, but sometimes it's too much. He thinks every single guy, every place we go, wants me. It's insane. No matter what age, color, marital statusetc. He's learned to accept it though, when we first started dating, the poor boy just about self-destructed.

I'm afraid you may have taken my teasing too seriously. I know that you aren't coming to America - - - and I'd expect you to bring your girlfriend along if you did. I'd love to meet her. I honestly want to continue our friendship after this project, will your girlfriend mind? (Does she know that we're correspondants?)

Mes etudes sont fini le cinquante de mai. J'espere avoir (e-mail again) dans aout. Je peut ecrire a l'adresse que tu me donne immediatement, n'est-ce pas? Sinon, qu'est-ce qui est l'adresse? Two more weeks of classes and then I have a week of finals. My friends and I are going to a party the last week for my birthday as it's the week after we leave? J'ai les meilleurs amis.

That's all for now. I hope to hear from you soon.

Love

Leila ☺

P.S. I know that you are not writing to me because of the way I look, nor I you. The most wonderful thing about our friendship is that you were so kind to me and interested in what I had to say before you had any idea as to what I looked like. That means more to me than you'll ever know. I've known so many guys over the years try to get close to me just because I was a model, they didn't think I had an intelligent thing to say. I will always thank you for offering me your friendship from the beginning – that makes it one of the most special friendships I've ever had, since all the other relationships in my life were based from appearances first. Gros Bisous.

33) Frédéric e-mail, 31

Mon. 28 Apr 1997

Dear Leila

Especially about holidays: the French way is for pupils and students to be free since the end of June until early September. As you said before, we have a lot of holidays. But that implies that I won't be able to compose any e-mail message after that.

After the holidays there are two possibilities: either I will spend another year in Brest (and then you'll be able to reach me at the same internet address) or I will be in Paris in a different school, whose address is [http: www-enst.fr](http://www-enst.fr). It's a bit complex because I've asked to be transferred to Paris in order to live with my girlfriend (I notice I never tell her name: Clementine) , as you may suppose. Anyway if you don't find me on the Web, one day ask to Julien Moreau here in ENST Bretagne. He's a friend of mine and will answer you kindly. His address is the same as mine, except that you have to replace names.

Sorry to complicate things.

Now I'd like you to know I'm also very pleased to have interesting conversation with you: you speak about American people but here in France it's quite the same: people talk about clothes, computers.... Nothing very exciting. It's even worse here in the school (that's why I have so few friends here) because they come from preparatory school (words?) they think they are better than the people who don't: they are very proud of themselves.... for example when Clementine comes here, some of them look at her alternatively with two eyes:

- as she had nothing to do among them

-or they insist on her as though they had never seen any girl before

(you have to know that preparatory school are a very closed world, where many students only work, all day long, never go outso they're cut off the real world; of course, not all of them, but maybe a majority!)

Then what a relief to talk to any outsider of that world! The consequence of this phenomenon is that I give as special attention to my real friends, and you're one of them now.

Let's not doing melodrama about such a gloomy world: I don't live in it.

I'm a bit in a hurry, and I have to go. I promise I'll write soon. I also expect you to wrote back, I'm so pleased each time I hear from you!

Love,

Frederic

34) Leila, e-mail 32

Mon 28 Apr 1997

Cher Frederic

Bonjour!

Le nom de ta petite amie est Clementine? Quel un bel nom! Je veut avoir un bel nom, mais mon nom est tres comun. Quand j'ai les enfants, je donnerai des bel noms, pas de commun.

Je suis tres fache a ma co-locataire. Elle est mauvais. C'est tres bizarre que tu connais beaucoup de personnes de les ecoles preparatoires (Is that the right word?). Dans les Etats-Unis, les enfants qui sont tres riches aller a (boarding schools or prep schools) [...]

Est-ce que tu trouves que mon anglais est difficile pour tu comprends? (That was very bad). Je ne te demande jamais avant.

Now for a little bit of English. I'm trying to write more in French. I don't know if it's easier to understand my English or my French. It's pretty questionable.

So as soon as I leave here after May 16, I will be able to write to you at the address you gave me, correct? I don't want you not to be able to receive my letters. Next year it's also questionable as to where I will be. I'm moving in with Pete at the end of August and I'm not sure what school I will be at next year.

I'm still sick and wish I could get better soon. I hate having a cold. I have mixed feelings about school ending. I'm tired of tests and studying, but I've made some of the closest friends since I've been here. I will miss them very much. I've also gotten along with my parents so much better since I've moved out—I don't know what it will be like to live there again.

But then again, I'll be back in my hometown where I'll be able to work as much as I like without having to worry about homework. And I'll be able to see my boyfriend all the time and my friends from high school. It'll just be different. I've grown accustomed to my life here. I have two really good friends that live in Switzerland—one stayed at my high school—anyways, they've both invited me to Switzerland this summer to stay with them and sort of travel around Europe. I was very excited about it but I don't think I'll be able to make it this year. Traveling is so expensive. Besides, one of them, Brendan, he is always so busy—I'd never fit into his schedule. And Kerry—well it's something that we've talked about forever but I don't think it will ever happen. She was supposed to move to the US after I came and saw her in Switzerland and we were going to live together. Our lives have changed so much since then, though. Pete says that someday we will get married and he'll take me to Paris for our honeymoon after I teach him some French. Hopefully he's telling the truth. [...]

34) Leila, e-mail 33

Tue April 29 1997

Cher Frederic

Bonjour!

Today, in my French class, we watched part of the teleconference.... My professor commented on the fact that the only person in our class that may have gotten some on-hand experience from the conference was me because you asked me something in return to my question. I mentioned how horrible it was at first because I didn't understand you, and she said you did a wonderful job because you clarified yourself until I did understand you and was able to reply. I agree, that's because you are a nice guy and an even better friend.

35) Leila, e-mail 34

Wed 30 Apr 1997

Frederic,

Once again I forgot to comment on something in your letter. I know how you feel about seeing yourself on camera. When I see myself or hear my voice when it's been recorded, I hate it. It sounds as if I'm twelve years old and I'm a little girl. Then my friends will tell me that's how I really sound (It's not how I sound to myself). So it makes me very self-conscious wondering if I sound like a little girl to everybody? That's all—just thought I'd tell you I can relate.

Gros Bisous

Leila☺

36) Leila, e-mail 35

Wed 30 Apr 1997

Cher Frederic,

Bonjour! Je suis tres heureuse que tu m'ecrit! Aujourd'hui, je suis malade, toujours! J'ai vu un prof de la semestre dernier aujourd'hui aussi, il est tres gentil. Toujours, il essaie de me trouver un petit ami! Je le dis que j'ai un petit ami mais il n'entends pas. Son cœur est dans l'endroit correct. [1 paragraph in English] Thank-you for helping me with my vocabulary. I usually don't have my dictionary with me when I e-mail which is why so much of my letters is in English. Also, you are quite perceptive. My spoken and understood French is very lacking. When I'm being spoken to in French (especially by a native) it's very hard to understand because they usually speak too fast and don't pronounce (sic). They also use some slang, which we don't use in French class. I am so grateful that you understood my position and took the time to speak slowly until I understood you. The thing that helped me the most was that you said the word "drole" and then I figured out what you were saying. But then I felt terrible because I thought that you believed that I didn't think you were funny. I was trying to say it was a language barrier (but I usually understand you anyways) but all I could say was "C'est la langue!" I guess you understood, though. I never realized we may be speaking too fast for you to understand. English seems so much easier to me, but it would since it's the language I've spoken my entire life.

I know something that I may not have told you. We made a video for your class, and filmed campus and our classroom.. etc. We also decided to film a dorm room to illustrate American college living and it was my room they showed. So on the video it's me showing my room and talking about the various things in it. It was very messy at the time, but it was supposed to show how we actually live and that's how I actually live. If it had been spotlessly clean, it wouldn't have been truthful.

Anyways you will be able to reach me at my parents house, where I will be living until I move out later this year. I may be going to California to visit my father for a few weeks since I will be unemployed for the first time in a really long time once school is finished. Once I get back, then I'll find a job.

That's all for now, I will look forward to hearing from you soon; This has been a rough week for me so I hope your week is going better.

Much love

Leila☺

37) Frédéric e-mail, 36

Tue 6 May 1997

Dear Leila,

A short letter because I have no time. I don't forget you, but, as I have just said, it's a time problem: the last week-end and the next one are four days long, and I can't write to you then, because everything is closed here. And during the cross-time, teachers have scheduled so many controls, so that we don't stay at home.

Anyway I showed your letters to Clementine this weekend and she appeared to be very jealous but that was foreseeable ("Love"). So she doesn't want to go and see you for the moment, we'll have to wait for her temper to soften a little bit [..]

People in the English class will prepare advertisings for mobile telephones, supposed to be funny, but it doesn't suit to me so don't be surprised if you don't see me in them (moreover I may not have your skill to play.)

I'm teaching to Clementine how to drive a car. Last week-end, it was the "stunt lesson": burns with the wheels, hand brakes....but she isn't ready for it yet. Anyway, there is no use to have your driving licence in Paris: it's better to use the tube.

Well, hoping those little things won't look too strange or mad to you.... I have to go, but see you later!

Love,

Frederic

38) Frédéric, e-mail 37

Wed 7 May 1997

Dear Leila,

Once again I'm in a hurry: 5 minutes before the next class (right word?)

It's essentially in order to warn you that I won't be there this week-end: I'm going to Paris. It's a last minute decision, that's why I hadn't foreseen it and then why I won't have time to write to you a long letter.

Thank you for your so friendly letter, I was very pleased to read it; don't bother about Clementine's jealousy: I'm convinced it's only to have something to reproach me with in a joking way. (?)

Write back, a long letter, and I'll reply when I'm back, an even longer one

Sorry for being so short,

Love anyway,

Frederic

39) Leila, e-mail 38

Wed 7 May

Cher Frederic

Cette lettre sera courte Je n'ai pas beaucoup des temps. J'ai un examen dans Economics demain que je ne sais pas de jusq'a mardi. Mais j'étudie ce soir apres je regarde"90210"

Tomorrow is the last day of classes. The end of the semester has come so soon. My last final is on next Wednesday but I'm not leaving until Friday, so we'll be able to e-mail until then? I might be able to send you an e-mail or two before you leave school because a friend of mine has the internet back home.

I finally get to go home this weekend. I haven't been home in a month. I also haven't seen Pete in a while.

J'ai mal a la tete.

I knew how to say that in French so I thought I'd add it in. Tomorrow I'll see you and me on the videoconference. You being cute and intelligent and me not understanding you and looking stupid but it was fun anyways. I wish it could have been more personal.

I'll write a really long letter tomorrow. I hope you have fun in Paris with Clementine this weekend. I've always dreamed of going to Paris and you are able to go there anytime you want. Not fair ☺
Love anyways Leila☺

40) Leila, e-mail 39

Tues. 13 May 1997

Cher Frederic,

Bonjour! Bonjour!

I'm going to write the longest letter that I can manage because you promised to write me back an even longer one!!!!!!!

My last day here is Friday. Then I will have to write you a letter by hand. I will miss the internet. I will miss our e-mail chats. I will miss a lot of things.

I had the worst day. It was so bad that I wanted to cry but then I checked my e-mail and my friend wrote me the sweetest letter for no reason at all telling me that she loved me and missed me. I have the best friends.

I went home for a few days this weekend. I hadn't seen Pete in a few weeks. Now we'll be together all the time.

I almost forgot! Guess what? I have you on video tape. I received a copy of the videoconference with you on it. My friends think you're a cutie! One of them wants to venture to France but I told her that you were a wonderful guy and very devoted to your girlfriend. And if she took advantage of you, I'd kill her!

It's very frustrating watching the videotape of us talking now because I understand everything you say so perfectly and I wasn't responding correctly at all. Of course now that I watch without cameras and photographers in my face I have the perfect thing to say but I can't go back to change it. Some parts of the videoconference bother me, because when I watch other people's reactions in your class, at times it seems almost as if they're mocking people. Of course it could be that I just didn't understand what's going on.

I'm sorry none of this is in French. My entire next letter will be in French. Promise. I heard from a friend of mine the other day that I thought I had lost contact with. He joined the navy and keeps getting transferred places so that I'm unable to keep track of where he's at. Anyways, he called me and made me speak to him in French (he loves the way it sounds) and recorded my voice to play whenever he wanted. He also told me that he's been trying to learn French so that he could impress me and as we were getting off the phone he said "je t'aime" so I guess he did learn something all on his own. He's sweet.

Il faut que je dors. (j'ai dis quelquechouse en francais!)

I must write more.

So how was your weekend with Clementine. I'm sure it was wonderful. [...]

As of Wednesday I am unemployed. I have to go home and find a job. I'll also be doing movies this summer. It should be fun. It'll be weird living at home again for a little while. It'll be even stranger living with Pete. I think he's finally gotten over his jealousy of you. Now he's just jealous of all the guys that live in this country—whether I know them or not.

Remember to watch the video that we should be sending your class. I'm on there quite a bit I think.

My roommate is evil.

I'm just throwing out random thoughts out there to make this really long. It's 12:44 A.M. and I'm probably not making much sense any more. On my video tape of your class, you say goodbye to me at the end and someone else starts singing my name and it ends. It's strange. I keep hearing my name and then the tape cuts out.

By the way, did you know that in my mind I pronounced your name wrong until the day before the videoconference? Silly me, I'm just pronouncing it the American way, not thinking anything about it until the day before the conference. I was reading my question in French and your name stuck out and it hit me that you probably didn't pronounce it that way so I started to pronounce it the French way. Good thing I caught myself. I would have felt terrible pronouncing it wrong the first time we speak face to face.

I really wish that we could have done another videoconference. I'm still so upset that I didn't answer correctly the first time. I understand you perfectly when I watch it. Very frustrating.

Well, I guess I will end this now. I am very tired. Sleep, sleep, sleep, sleep. I can't even type any more; I hope you had a wonderful weekend. I hope to hear from you soon (long letter—remember your promise) You can write short letters as you have time, but I expect a long one before I leave, young man! (All my friends call me "Mom"—can you see why?)

This is our last week! I will miss you!

Love

Leila☺

41) Frédéric, e-mail 40

Tue 13 May 1997

Subject: Last Time?

Hi Mom,

Your fault: you shouldn't have said it to me. Are you such an elderly lady? Then some other people may ask you the secret for remaining so young and lovely!

It's quite a challenge to write a longer letter as yours now. How silly I was when I promised that!

Tu me promets une lettre en Francais pour la prochaine fois: que dirais-tu d'un peu d'entraînamant (sic)? Voila quelques mots de Français pour te rememorer le sens de cette langue.

Alors tu t'étais entraînee; c'est pour cela que tu prononçais mon nom "a la Francaise"....Ne sois pas desolee pour la videoconference: ce n'est pas evident de tout comprendre a la premiere ecoute; nous n'avons pas etudie la cassettede cette conference en classe (d'ailleurs je n'y vais plus depuis lors), et je t'avoue que moi non plus je n'avais pas tout compris.

Enough, isn't it?

It's so strange the way you live, the friends you have. [...]

About weddings: that's a topic we often speak about with Clementine, and we do agree with each other: as soon as it is possible, we'll do it. It means as soon as we can live on our own, earning enough money to be totally independent of our parents. (You have to know that in France, "children" are raised, and then helped by their parents until very late: from 16 to 30 years old!) Personally, my parents give me 2000 francs to live, which correspond to about 350-400 \$. They also pay for my studies (but it's much cheaper than in the USA as you know). That enables us to be totally devoted to our studies. In theory [...]

I try to get my "diplôme d'Ingenieur" in order to multiply the odds to get a good job, and if possible earn enough to have my family feel comfortable. Clementine is in the first year of "langage sciences", which means nearly everything about languages, from physiology to phonetics and phonology, sociolinguistics(?) and of course foreign languages (she speaks a much better English than mine, with a little irish accent, because she has had an Irish boyfriend once when she was working in London during her holidays.) Anyway, like any of us,

she wonders whether she will get a job related to her studies when she comes out of "faculte". (in France, there are a lot of people who are out of a job, and a lot of other people who do job where their studies don't help them at all.....) She also has a job to earn a little money, but it seems that I've already told you about it?

Your navy friend isn't the only one who knows French words: proof: Je t'aime, Leila. (That's the only words I know by the way). Te quiero. Ich liebe dich. I love you are the first sentences you learn in a foreign language, isn't it?

But I envy him: he may live an exciting life, always moving; it's not very convenient to have a wife, raise children and so on, but I wish I could live this way. Two years ago, I decided to become a fighter pilot in the army; but the army didn't agree because of my asthma (?) they said it was a pity, for I was in a better shape than some real pilots, but it wasn't possible for a pilot to have breath problems..... (same problem, I'm not allowed to dive with oxygen bottles (words?)) . It was my dream and I was very disappointed not to be able to fulfil it (young boy! You would say). Now I try not to go and see too many movies about air force.... otherwise I've got a wave of regrets collapsing on me (and no board...) Well, I realise I'm telling you my life. How boring it may be for you! So it's time to stop. I hope you'll have time to write back a last letter, or maybe at your friend's home....?

Love
Frederic

42) Leila, e-mail 41

Wed 14 May 1997

Cher Frederic,

Une lettre en francaisTres difficile. Je pense que la langue de francais est plus difficile que la langue d'anglais mais c'est naturelle. Je suis tres heureuse que tu es retourne tu as beaucoup des vacances! Mais maintenant c'est moi...j'aurai trois mois des vacances et c'est l'ete!

Je ne sais pas si mon ex-petit ami epousera cette fille me faire jalouse ..mais il est bizarre.

Je sais comment dire "Je t'aime" dans neuf langues (English, French, Spanish, Italian, German, Swiss-German, Russian and Polish). Seulement c'est huit langues. Bien sur tu parles en francais.....tres bien aussi. Demain, mon jour derniere de travail a Walgreen's! Merci Dieu.

Mon ami que je t dis etait dans le "navy"je mentis. Il est dans le "airforce". Il etudie des avions..etc. Je ne pense pas qu'il va voler les avions. Je ne sais pas que tu as voulu etre dans le "air force". Ta vie, je ne trouve pas ennuyeux. Au contraire, je la trouve tres interessante!

La langue de francais a beaucoup de regles. En anglais ce n'est importante pas!

Tu ne crois pas les temps que j'ai pris ecrire cette lettre en francais. C'est longue aussi.

English now!!!!!!!!!!

Aren't you proud of me? That was a lot of French!

Guess what? My father wrote me today and told me that for my birthday he is going to build me a CPU and install e-mail on it so that I can continue to use it and keep in contact with him and my other friends. Our computer chats may not be over after all; my father owns a computer company...I don't know if I ever told you that. Clementine studies languages? I never knew that. What does she want to do with it when she finishes her studies? You never told me that she works either. I can't believe French parents support their children that long! Not me! My parents pay my car insurance and they support me when I'm living in their house which

isn't very often. My mom also does my laundry just because I'm afraid I'll ruin my clothes.

Vocabulary: athmus: I assume that you are referring to asthma, which I understand. Our military has restrictions about asthma too. The rest of your vocabulary was correct (oxygen tanks---- as you would use for scuba diving?)

I know that you can speak French ...American girls find French guys quite sexy! Especially because of their accents. My friends who saw the video tape only wanted to hear you speak in French! French men in American movies, books etc. are always the sexy lover -types. Very stereotypical. They are supposed to be sooo romantic and know just how to please a woman. It's quite amusing. [...]

I will write more later before I'm gone for sure. I hope to hear from you soon!

Love always

Leila

iv) E-mails. Primary and Secondary Socialisation

Example 1, Le français 312

Thu 13 Feb 1997

Hello Courtney

[...] I'm really happy to be able to talk with u. I find it a great opportunity. I was wondering what you did in your school and what u ment when u say that u are taking "le francais 312". I'd be glad if u told me more about these classes and about your teacher [...]

Hope to hear from u soon. Ciao

Cyril

Thu 6 Mar 1997

Bonjour Cyril

[...] En reponse a votre question du "francais 312". La classe est une partie d'une serie. La premiere classe est le francais 101 et alors 102, 201? 202? 204, 311, 312etc. Evidemment je ne suis pas avance meme si je prends "le francais 312" [...].

Je dois partir. A bientôt!

Courtney

Example 2, Le Français 404W

Fri, 01 Oct 1999

Bonjour Valentin,

Comme étudiant de l'économie et des affaires internationales, je suis beaucoup de cours qui centrent sur les affaires bien que les lettres et spécifiquement, la Français, exigent aussi mon temps et énergie. **Ce semestre, je prends la Français 404W, un cours de l'écriture intensifiée pour développer un savoir de la grammaire avancée et des techniques de l'écriture correcte et claire.** Cet automne, j'habite avec un **camarade de chambre** dans un appartement dehors de campus. C'est un endroit commode à vivre, mais après trois ans d'habitant sur le campus, je manque quelques aspects de la résidence universitaire, surtout la proximité à mes classes et la cuisine de la cantine (**le Resto-U**).

Jeff

Example 3, Sororities

a) Thu 4 Feb 1997

Salut Olivier! Comment ca va? [...] I enjoyed your e-mail! You seem like a nice, intelligent guy. My studies are interesting but they take up quite a bit of time as do my sorority and my work schedule. My professor said that you do not have sororities in France so I should explain what it is. Sororities (for women) and fraternities (for men) are social organizations here in American colleges. They do many good things such as charity work and get students involved in other activities on campus. They do fun things together as well [...].

b) Fri, 10 Dec 1999 19:25:12 -0500

Salut Sabastien,

Comment est les fêtes en France? Ici ils ne sont pas conjonctif avec l'université. Je vais en ville aux appartements ou aux fraternities (je ne sais pas si les fraternities exist en France...c'est les maisons grandes où beaucoup des garçons habitent). Aux fêtes il y a la biere (habituellement gratuite) et la musique bruyante. Quelquefois il y a les jeux de boire, est ce que vous jouez les jeux de boire dans France?

c) Mon, 04 Oct 1999 12:49:43 -0400

Subject: Re: First Contact

Bonjour Jean-Loup!

[...] A East University, j'habite dans une appartement avec trois filles qui sont mes meilleures amies. Aussi je participe dans une sororite. Je pense que vous ne l'a pas a son universite, mais elle est un peu comme un club ou nous faisons les services pour la communaute et aussi nous avons les fetes avec les hommes qui participe dans les confreries. C'est la meme chose d'une sororite, mais seulement pour les hommes.

Example 4, FNSU

Jean-Loup and Chris, 1999

Sat, 23 Oct 1999

In France there is a championship between all universities, it is called the FNSU (FNSU= Fédération Nationale du Sport Universitaire) Is there something equal in America? Do you take part in such a championship?

Jean-Loup

Tue 16 Nov 1999

Aux Etats-Unis nous avons une chose presque comme FNSU mais il est pour chaque sport different. Je ne peux pas participer parce que c'est tres competitif, donc quelq'un doit jouer tres bien si il veut participer [...]. Nous avons regarde le match de football americain, mais malheureusement East University a perdu encore une fois. Je suis triste parce que l'equipe a eu l'occasion de participer dans le "Sugar Bowl". Je pense que c'est comme ton FNSU mais seulement pour le football americain.

Salut Chris

Example 5, Grandes Ecoles

Jean-Loup and Chris, 1999

Hello Chris!

I received your mail yesterday but I didn't have time to write since then. Firstly, I want to say to you that your french is pretty good and that my english mustn't be so. Now, I'm going to answer your questions.

Our school is a "Grande Ecole" and we're studying telecommunication system, I'm sorry but I have not the specific vocabulary in my mind! At the end of our study, we are "ingenieurs", which seems to be the equivalent of technical managers. Our campus is near Brest but it is probably not as tall as yours since there is approximately 400 or 500 students here. There is also searchers but I don't know how many. I live on the campus like most of the students, each one has his own room (it is quite small!).

**Example 6 Homecoming
Xavier and Sue, 1999**

Wed, 03 Nov 1999 21:15:08 -0500

Xavier,

[...] Ce weekend, notre universite ont le "Homecoming." Il y a une grande parade et un match de football americain. C'est une fete celebre par tout l'universite. Est-ce que ton universite a un weekend comme notre "Homecoming?"

- Thu, 11 Nov 1999 13:48:06 +0100 (MET)

Subject: salut!

[...] This week-end you have the "homecoming", it seems to be very interesting and very funny, in France on our campus we often organize a week end of sports, several "grandes ecoles" come and many matches are organized, there is a great variety of sports: soccer, tennis, volley ball, badminton, etc. At the end of the day we have a party, it's fun. So it's quite similar to your "homecoming".

Example 7 Curiosity and Enthusiasm about the Education System/ Lack of curiosity

a) Jean-Loup and Chris, 1999

Tue, 5 Oct 1999 19:53:41

Subject: Answer

Salut Jean-Loup!

Pour repondez a vos questions, a La Sorbonne j'etudierai le grammar et le conversation pour pratiquer mon francais. Je suivrai juste une classe parce que je veux explorer et apprendre tous les choses. J'aime l'art et quand je suis allée a Paris avant, je n'ai pas de temps d'aller au Louvre. Aux Etats-Unis, il n'y a pas beaucoup de chances de voir les films francais au cinema. Nous les voyons dans les classes, mais je ne sais pas ou on peut voir un film francais au cinema? Desolee, mais je n'ai pas vu Star Wars, mais j'ai entendu que ce film est bien. [...] Au sujet de votre culture, je n'ai pas de questions explicitement, mais de quels sortes de choses faites-vous et vos amis pour s'amuser? Est-ce que votre ecole est difficile? De quels sujets etudiez-vous a la Grande Ecole? De quoi est-ce que les francais pensent des americains? Quand je voyagerai a Paris, est-ce que les personnes m'aident avec les choses que je ne comprends pas? Si vous avez des questions pour moi, demandez-moi! Je suis tres contente de parler avec vous ce semestre!

I don't know how I can explain you how works our culture. So, I'd prefer that you ask me questions about specific topics because it is hard to speak about a such big subject. In fact you seem so enthusiastic that I hope I will be able to explain you everything. For instance I have some questions: What sort of subject will you study at La Sorbonne? Can you see some french pictures in cinema? Because here in France we have sometimes more american films than french films. Have you ever been to France before? Where? Did you enjoy it? I never went to America, I

just went to England, Greece, and Portugal. I'm sure you want to know more but I must leave you by now.

See you later!

Jean-Loup

PS: Star Wars arrive in our cinema in a few days. Did you see it? Is it a good one compares to the three others?

b) Xavier and Alicia, 1999

Salut Xavier

i live in philadelphia but i was born and raised in france...actually i was raised in Brest ☺ i lived on rue Anatole France and i was jus in Brest this past july...Je suis une française! Hehehe Née à Pontoise près de Paris mais élevée à Brest...I didn't come to the States until 1989...So i've spent half my life in France and half here. So maybe i'd know the french music groups you like, or at least learn of some...My roommate here is french also...or was born and raised there, so she would know some...Oh, I'm vietnamese by the way, well, till later...

Thu 7 Oct 1999

Hello Alicia

Here is Xavier who finally write you back: first, I would like to say that I don't know the street Anatole France: we do not live in Brest, but at about ten kilometres from this place in a smaller town called Plouzané. So the only street that I know is the main one: la rue de Siam. Concerning the French music groups that I listen to, here's a list: Armens, Blankass, Melville, Miossec, Dolly,M, Mano Negra, les Wampas, I am, Silmarils, Cornu, Renaud, Noir Desir et Telephone...Perhaps, you know one of the last three ones, they are well known here in France for several years. I don't remember if I say it in my last letter, but I enjoy having internet on my own computer: it is really helpfull to obtain all sorts of informations as MP3, games (i'm fond of computer games...)

Bye, Xavier

Subject: Salut...

Date: Mon, 25 Oct 1999 23:39:25

Bonjour,

Il y a longtemps que j'ai écrit...Mais il y avait juste beaucoup de choses a faire et je n'étais pas ici pour un temps. Je suis rentrer chez moi pour aider ma mère...On est entrain de déménager. Je vois que tu ne connais pas Brest et que tu es vraiment à Plouzané... J'étais là aussi l'été dernier. Les groupes musicales français que tu as inscrits, tu avais raison, je ne l'ai connais pas. Mais, je vois que tu aimes les MP3...J'ai des MP3 de la musique que j'aime et si tu as du temps, peut-être tu peut m'envoyer un ou deux MP3 français que tu as. Ah oui, avant que j'oublie, mon professeur ma informer qu'il faut qu'on Écrit une composition ensemble sur un film français que les américains on refabriquer. Alors, est-ce que tu as des idées sur quel film on peut écrire? Je n'en connais pas beaucoup... Bon, a plus tard...

Alicia

Example 8, Information/ Thumbnail sketch

Ludovic and Wayne, 1999

Mon 18 Oct 1999

Hi, Wayne,

I'm very sorry for writing to you so late. But, I've just spent about 10 days doing a report about economy, which took all my "leisure" time last week. So i was very

busy. I hope you didn't worry and think I gave you up. I'm quite agree with you about exchanging time to time messages in our first language. So I begin this evening.

Tout d'abord, je pense que ca serait sympa si, de temps en temps, tu corrigeais mes erreurs d'anglais (particulierement si je me trompe de mots). Je pense que c'est un des interets de cet echange. J'aimerais que tu m'explique comment se passent tes etudes aux Etats-Unis. J'aimerais connaitre les differences avec notre systeme francais. Pour ma part, j'ai passe toute ma scolarite dans le nord de la France. J'etais tout d'abord a l'ecole primaire de mon petit village (environ 800 habitants) puis je suis alle au college puis au lycee dans une commune voisine: c'est la que j'ai passe mon baccalaureat. J'etais dans une terminale scientifique. Une fois, le bac en poche, les etudiants ont le choix pour poursuivre leurs etudes. Ils peuvent soit aller a l'universite pour une periode plus ou moins longue, soit entreprendre leurs etudes superieures (apres le bac) au lycee. La premiere solution est celle qui est choisie par la plupart des bacheliers, mais les universites francaises, pour la plupart, n'ont pas la meme renommee que les universites en Angleterre ou aux Etats Unis: tout le monde peut s'y inscrire, a partir du moment ou il a le bac. La deuxieme solution consiste a entreprendre ses etudes post-bac dans un lycee pour 2 ans. Il y a deux formations differentes: le BTS (Brevet de Techniciens Superieurs) qui delivre un diplome au bout de 2 ans et, a la suite duquel on travaille. L'autre formation, c'est les classes preparatoires aux grandes ecoles. C'est la filiere que j'ai choisie. Ces etudes ne delivrent aucun diplome!!!! Mais elles preparent simplement aux concours d'entree aux ecoles prestigieuses de l'enseignement scolaire francais. Il y des ecoles litteraires (tres difficiles a avoir), des ecoles commerciales (la celebre HEC) et les ecoles d'ingenieurs pour les filieres scientifiques (comme Polytechnique). Et dans ces ecoles, on trouve l'Ecole Nationale Superieure des Telecommunications de Bretagne, ou je me trouve actuellement, et ou je vais rester pour trois ans...Voila, j'espere que je ne t'ai pas trop ennuye avec mon long discours. [...]

Je te souhaite un bon week end. Et j'attends avec impatience de tes nouvelles.

See you soon. Ludo.

Sat, 30 Oct 1999 13:39

Subject: Re: Me revoila enfin

Dear Ludo,

Sorry for my delay in writing back--it's been a crazy week, lots of work to be done and most of it fairly time-consuming and unpleasant. I guess it's my turn to write in English so I will do so. It is an absolutely beautiful weekend despite being almost November--it is like summer out, and everyone is wearing shorts and tshirts. This weekend is also Halloween, and there are lots of Halloween parties in people's gardens tonight. Even last night it was like a carnival downtown--everyone was wandering about in costumes. I am going to be an astronaut tonight--I have a space helmet and a space suit and I covered my backpack with white paper and put a "NASA" sign on it. I wanted to ask you, what kind of music do you like? Lately I've been listening to some stuff I picked up in France--Gainsbourg, Boris Vian, H-F Thiefaïne, etc. I wish I knew more about French music, and not just the most well-known things. We have a project to do in my french class, and our teacher wants it to be a collaborative effort between us and our correspondants in France (you). We are supposed to compare a French film and its American remake. Do you have any suggestions as to what film to choose? We were given a list of suggestions--I could mail that to you if you would like. Did you receive the same assignment? Hope to hear from you soon--I promise I'll reply immediately when I get your next email.

Salut, Wayne

Example 9, Working together - Lucinda and Guillaume, 1999

Tue, 30 Nov 1999

Je vais être à la visioconférence mercredi. En classe, nous avons déjà plusieurs questions à vous demander et je pense que vous avez fait la même chose.

Well, we are also supposed to do so but yet I have no idea, maybe I'll ask about your description of the University campus. I haven't read it yet but I can't ask you questions like "so don't you think the French version, is better?" or "what part did you like /dislike?" I am trying to find more interesting questions, but I can't, I'm lacking of imagination, so you can also expect to be asked silly questions.

J'ai finis de regarder les deux films et maintenant je dois commencer ma composition. J'ai pensé à deux sujets et peut-être tu pourrais m'aider à décider le quel je devrai faire.

1) Comparer les fins des deux films plus qu'ils sont très différentes.

2) Comparer les scènes de violence plus que dans la version américaine, il y a plus de violence que dans la version française. Dis-moi ce que t'en pense. Je dois rendre la composition jeudi alors si tu n'as pas le temps de répondre, ça ne me gêne pas

Yes why not, about the violence, it may be explain by the fact that the french version is older and the violence was usually suggested, but not shown as often as you can see it nowadays. the old films was shot in order to make the people who watch experiment feelings: the situation, the game of the actors, the way it was filmed, was theoretically enough for that. Nowadays you have to attract visually, the watcher is more or less flabby [sic] and the pictures is doing all the job. Before, the movies was a bit like the theatre but with a more visual tool. If you watch an Hitchcock film, it is similar to the French diabolique, by watching the eyes of the birds, their blackness, and the expressions of the actors, you were suppose to be threaten, now to make a scary movie you need a serial killer with a bloody [sic] knife, if you want to do a remake of Birds, I think that if you want to have it massively sold you need to see a bird enucleating someone in a close-up. You now have to show violence directly if you want to express it, people are use to see it in films that are not comedies with famous actors. So if you don't see it you (the basic watcher that usually don't think about what is suggested but take everything at the first degree, not you personnaly!) won't catch it.

Bon, j'ai beaucoup de travail et je suis très fatiguée alors faut que j'aïlle. Ça va être cool de finalement pouvoir te voir et te parler mercredi.

Yes, see you on wednesday.

Guillaume

Film Number: 1		Year: April 1997					Comments
Begin Counter	End Counter	Subject	Code	Speakers	Sequence Number		
01-28-43-19	02-29-16-42	Introductions	FUN	Karma	SEQUENCE 2 4	First tape -problems with copies	
01-30-05-13	01-30-26-02	Setting up interaction	LOC TECH	Elizabeth Solange	SEQUENCE 2 5	Solange walking round carrying microphone	
01-32-27-10	01-32-37-07	Intersubjectivity Gestures	INT	Nadia	SEQUENCE 3 6	INTERSUBJECTIVITY	
01-33-41-18	01-35-30-22	Femme de ménage	FALSE	Katie Frédéric	SEQUENCE 6 27	FALSE UNDERSTANDINGS	
01-36-15-13	01-37-30-13	Mariages	FUN	Isabelle A Guillaume			
01-37-58-23	01-38-19-24	Mariages Interculturels	CULT CONT WORK	Isabelle A	SEQUENCE 6 29		
01-41-44-18	01-41-59-00	Language : *pas de dessert l'as jamais eu ?	LANG	Guillaume			
01-41-58-19	01-42-12-22	Bonjour, pardonne-moi	INT LOC	Karma	SEQUENCE 3 8	Patience and tolerance	
01-43-40-12	01-43-59-09	Gestures	INT LOC	Lily Guillaume	SEQUENCE 3 9	had to do again as had cut part off in montage	
01-44-02-00	01-45-42-13	Discipline	MON CULT CONT	Guillaume Lily	SEQUENCE 11 44	Parents and children	
01-45-43-13	01-45-48-14	Gestures	INT	Adam	SEQUENCE 3 7		
01-45-51-21	01-48-16-17	Authority		Adam/Steve			
02-56-43-20	02-58-09-19	Grand Meaulnes	NEGO LOC	Mary Nadia	SEQUENCE 8 38	New copy of tape technical problems	
02-58-16-22	02-59-44-20	Humour	NEGO	Leila Frédéric	SEQUENCE 8 36	NEGOTIATION OF MEANING CLARIFICATION MOVES	
02-59-46-06	03-01-59-07	Film context	FALSE	Frédéric	SEQUENCE 6 30		
03-02-01-09	03-03-18-19	Asterix	FUN CULT CONT	Isabelle Adam		Lexical teaching	
03-03-23-11	03-03-27-18	Pay attention please	INT LOC	Leila Frédéric	SEQUENCE 3 10	talking to whole group	

Date: April 1997

ENST BRETAGNE
SOUTH WEST MISSOURI
SECOND OF TWO VIDEOCONFERENCES

Film Number: 1		Year: APRIL 1997			Page 2	
Begin Counter	End Counter	Subject	Code	Speakers	Sequence Number	Comments
00-10-43-08	00-14-40-18	Le Petit Nicolas Mélanie Pilou You're very smart	CULT CONT INTERSUB SCAFF TECH FUN	Karma Isa	SEQUENCE 9 39	Negotiation from misunderstanding Third film - Tech problems doing montage (pneumatic) "All the defaults a child can have"
00-14-41-06	00-17-53-07	Children's stories Mémoire d'un âne La Fontaine	CULT CONT INTERSUB INTERTEX TECH NEGO	Steve Bruno Elizabeth		Bruno : How do you say in English ? Clarification "Catholic education" / You're very smart
00-17-54-03	00-25-35-01	Television Hélène et les garçons Bad guys / Days of our Lives / Blossom / Beverley Hills / Love Triangles / Issues	CULT CONT FUN INTERTEX TECH	Group	SEQUENCE 7 35	"Kinda dull" American exposure to French soap operas "trivial" language echoing
00-26-39-22	00-27-36-10	Acting in "Hélène et les garçons"	CULT CONT ATT	Frédéric Lily	SEQUENCE 7 34	American reluctant to criticize
00-27-38-06	00-28-17-10	Champagne	CULT CONT FUN	Nadia Elizabeth	SEQUENCE 14	Singing After discussion, last time about drinking on campus being illegal Too shocking ?
00-28-45-13	00-29-33-17	Cheers goodbyes				

Date: April 1997

ENST BRETAGNE
SOUTH WEST MISSOURI
SECOND OF TWO VIDEOCONFERENCES : Mélanie Pilou

Film Number: 2a			Year: March 1998			
Begin	End	Subject	Code	Speakers	Sequence	Comments
Counter	Counter				Number	
03 - 20	03 - 21 - 06	Introductions	LOC FUN JOKES	Andrée Elizabeth	SEQUENCE 1	Atmosphere 1 You're both very sort of "foues" Andrée : It's the weather Liz: It's deliberate ? On n'a pas de technicien, on a que des ingénieurs ici
03 - 21 - 07	04 - 51 - 06	Global classroom Le facteur	POS CULT CONT FUN	Jean-Yves Joanne	SEQUENCE 8	Tries to start discussion in French
05 - 02 - 05	08 - 23 - 05	Ami, copain, camarade	CULT CONT FUN MIS	Lauren Grégory	SEQUENCE 10	Friendship "Ca doit être comme chez vous"
08 - 28 - 15	09 - 54 - 01	Grandes Ecoles ENST	CULT CONT PERS	Cassie Yann		Comment avez-vous choisi l'ENST?
12 - 07 - 08	13 - 35 - 17	La cuisine américaine	CULT CONT PERSP LAUGHTER	Andry Andy/Tom	SEQUENCE 5	
16 - 17 - 12	17 - 06 - 03	L'argent, la réussite	CULT CONT	Aimée Laurence		
32 - 39 - 24	36 - 31 - 08	Friendship		Jérôme/Molly Andry/Cassie Jo Aimée Jack	SEQUENCE 10	Discussion
39 - 22 - 07	43 - 14 - 18	Parents + children	CULT CONT PERSP	Yann/Caitlin Thiebaut/Rosie	SEQUENCE 11	45 Cut end - extract too long
45 - 35 - 23	55 - 08 - 24	Television	CULT CONT MIS	Cassie/Caitlin. Jane Grégory	SEQUENCE 7	Misunderstandings leading to dialogue 33 A quite too usual question
55 - 20 - 06	55 - 33 - 22	END	TECH			

Date: March 1998

ENST BRETAGNE
SOUTH WEST MISSOURI
FIRST OF TWO VIDEOCONFERENCES

Film Number: 2B			Year: May 1998			
Begin Counter	End Counter	Subject	Code	Speakers	Sequence Number	Comments
00-00-00	00-55-07	Films...	LOCUS			Didn't use. Picture flickering. Problems with picture quality
01-05-01	06-16-16	Front National	TECH / POS CULT CONT	Aimée Jean-Yves	SEQUENCE 5	
06-17-04	11-11-23	Bandes Dessinées	AGF FUN / INFO	Andrée Nive / Andry	22	
12-41-02	16-01-22	Classes sociales	CULT CONT	Jean / Nico Jack		Spontaneous : Jean
16-19-11	18-15-15	Pretty woman La vie est un long fleuve tranquille	CULT CONT	Nivé		Hesitant, repeats
18-23-03	19-24-01	Que feriez-vous si vous receviez 60 000FF	FUN	Joanne Thiebault ...		
19-30-23	21-21-07	Video	CLASS			On va passer à l'anglais maintenant
22-06-10	24-42-21	Trois hommes Language levels Disney	CULT CONT	Andry/Alexis		Disney : Cultural dimension F--- Shows understanding of French films
24-44-18	30-35-17	Discussion / Trois hommes Friendship / acceptable behaviour	NEG / GLOB MIS	Group	SEQUENCE 9	Negotiation from misunderstanding 40 Agreeing to disagree
30-35-15	38-35-06	Discussion Drug attitude to police Individualism French more individualistic	FUN GLOB	Group	SEQUENCE 13	Attitudes to Authority Towards a global classroom Reality/Symbolic reality/ Dangers of using remakes
38-37-00	41-19-18		MIS	Nicolas/Joanne		Misunderstanding
41-22-07	47-49-02	Grandmothers Social Class Concierge	MIS			
50-12-00	51-36-09	Goodbyes	INTERSUB	Andrée Andry		Andrée curls - film - And your film was great Congratulations for the movies

Date: May 1998

ENST BRETAGNE
SOUTH WEST MISSOURI
SECOND OF TWO VIDEOCONFERENCES

Begin Counter	End Counter	Subject	Code	Speakers	Sequence Number	Comments
02 - 08 - 13	02 - 18 - 24	Introductions - Andrée	FUN - LOC	Andrée Alexis	SEQUENCE 2 2	Alexis making a joke - Icebreaking
02 - 37 - 13	02 - 43 - 17	Introductions	FUN	Craig	SEQUENCE 2 3	Craig speaks and everyone laughs
03 - 20 - 17	05 - 12 - 11	Private Life / Working life in France / 3 Hommes Friends	CULT CONT	Patricia Etienne A		Ascriptive society. Patricia's "answer" thumbs up and smiling with no words
05 - 15 - 16	05 - 37 - 15	"Où est mon Etienne ?"	KEY BUD FUN	Fran - Alexis	SEQUENCE 4 11	Etienne pretends to be ready to answer question
05 - 38 - 12	06 - 44 - 03	Role of criticism in French American Society	UNI MIS	Alexis Francesca	SEQUENCE 6 28	Although very international says everyone is the same. Not French
06 - 44 - 22	08 - 31 - 01	Clinton scandal / French reaction	POS - CULT ATG	Kelly Jean-Louis	SEQUENCE 5 23	Ridicule Reformulates smile
10 - 12 - 24	12 - 20 - 12	Attitudes to police 3 hommes et un couffin	CULT PERSP DIAC - STYLE	Lin Karine		Recontextualizes Old people / Young people
12 - 21 - 00	14 - 12 - 09	3 hommes et un couffin Drug dealers -> gives current info on society	CULT PERSP	Jack Masir		Film -> contemporary perspective
18 - 21 - 03	22 - 39 - 04	3 hommes et un couffin Men bringing up children 3 Hommes. Single - parent families	CULT CONT CULT PERSP MOD PERSP CULT CONT PERSP	Karine Liz		Film -> contemporary perspective
22 - 40 - 04	24 - 59 - 11	Remakes Sommersby	PERS OPINION	Flore		Strong message, but smile
25 - 08 - 04	27 - 27 - 05	Socialisation -> (looks at teacher) personal experience	PERS INFO	Karine Caitlin		Has learned methods of film narration
37 - 30 - 02	37 - 36 - 07	Whole class reaction applause		Patricia		From questionnaire - written by students in 1997. Layering
37 - 44 - 06	40 - 46 - 11	Fast food -> opens floor	MODIFY	Jean-Louis Molly Jane Kelly	SEQUENCE 5 26	Fast food- vegetarians

Date: April 1999

FIRST OF TWO VIDEOCONFERENCES "Mon Etienne"

SOUTH WEST MISSOURI
ENST BRETAGNE

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Begin Counter	End Counter	Subject	Code	Speakers	Sequence Number	Comments
40 - 47 - 04	46 - 12 - 22	So here is Antoine Friend	LOC CULT PERSP PERS INFO CULT PERSP	Alexis Antoine Anna Etienne Craig Etienne Patricia	SEQUENCE 10 43	Cut Etienne sequence too long A real friend You're still frozen
46 - 14 - 06	50 - 09 - 21	Remakes Stupid films. View of women Am persp.	PERS OP POS CULT PERSP	Flore Patricia	SEQUENCE 5 24	It's kind of difficult to explain, it seems so evident. Others laugh
50 - 10 - 19	52 - 11 - 12	Police - 3 hommes et un couffin	LOC CULT CONT	Alexis - Masir Alexis - Tom		The last question...
52 - 13 - 00	54 - 13 - 19	Privacy / personal space	CULT PERSP FUN	Karine Fran		
54 - 14 - 05	54 - 26 - 09	Etienne	KEYBUD FUN	Fran	SEQUENCE 4 11b	
54 - 27 - 06	55 - 07 - 21	Contacts : Where's Greg	KEYBUD	Elizabeth Kelly Andrée	SEQUENCE 4 12	
59 - 26 - 00	59 - 57 - 10	Goodbyes				

Date: April 1999

ENST BRETAGNE
SOUTH WEST MISSOURI
FIRST OF TWO VIDEOCONFERENCES

Film Number: 3B (tapes 1 and 2)			Year: MAY 1999			
Begin Counter	End Counter	Subject	Code	Speakers	Sequence Number	Comments
04 - 18 - 01	07 - 15 - 10	Concours	CULT CONT	Patricia/Lise		
07 - 33 - 05	09 - 17 - 16	Images TV des USA Grandes Ecoles / Universités	CULT CONT POS	Karine	SEQUENCE 12 46	Education knowledge of USA from television
10 - 19 - 16	11 - 23 07		TECH LOC	Alexis/Kelly Elizabeth/Solange		Technical problems
13 - 21 - 10	13 - 45 - 06	Musique Louise Attaque -> Quotas musique	CULT CONT	Alexis		
16 - 44 - 04	19 - 20 - 15	Catholiques - Laïcité	CULT CONT STYLE	Lin / Etienne		
19 - 30 - 06	21 - 54 - 19	Immigration / Le Pen Grecs	CULT CONT ATG	Gregory	SEQUENCE 5 20	
22 - 14 - 01	24 - 5*9 - 10	Front National	CULT CONT ATG	Karine/Craig	SEQUENCE 5 21	
32 - 50 - 03	33 - 39 - 00	Authority	CULT CONT	Etienne	SEQUENCE 6	Sound poor
35 - 27 - 20	37 - 31 - 08		PERSP	Kelly	32	
38 - 21 - 01	41 - 32 - 06	Punctuality	FALSE	Karine/Kelly Patricia	SEQUENCE 6 31	Sound poor
43 - 26 - 19	16 - 37 - 17	Guns -Lobby	MON / TECH CULT CONT			Sound too poor
46 - 41 - 00	46 - 49 -13	Who+when do you kiss ?	CULT CONT TECH / FUN	Etienne		Alexis speaking for Etienne who had lost his voice
51 - 28 - 21	53 - 19 - 10	Dancing	FUN	Fran/Gregory Kelly/Craig	SEQUENCE 14	End montage
55 - 00 - 08		Trousers	LEX SCAFF		SEQUENCE 14	End montage
58 - 07 - 03	58 - 45 - 15	Dancing	FUN	Antoine/Alexis Etienne	SEQUENCE 14	End montage
06 - 20 - 02	06 - 58 - 09		COMP MASCOT	Fran/Alexis Etienne		Tape two I like your hair / I like your hat
08 - 47 - 21	09 - 33 - 16		MIS / NEG FUN	Etienne/Alexis		SON SUN Superficial but personal contact
09 - 35 - 24	11 - 24 - 04		FUN / LOC INTERTEX	Alexis Fran	SEQUENCE 14	I love your hair/ intertextual references Alexis wrote To Kelly afterwards remembered 3 years afterwards
12 - 11 - 13	12 - 25 - 21		BYE TECH	Solange	SEQUENCE 14	

Date: May 1999

ENST BRETAGNE
SOUTH WEST MISSOURI
SECOND OF TWO VIDEOCONFERENCES

Film Number: 4		Year: Dec. 1999				
Begin Counter	End Counter	Subject	Code	Speakers	Sequence Number	Comments
03 - 24 - 17	03 - 34 - 03	Setting the scene	KEY/ BUD	Guillaume Nicolas	SEQUENCE 4 13	Hello, my name is Guillaume Lequet Guillaume? Guillaume F.
04 - 21 - 04	06 - 32 - 15	Stereotypes	CULT CONT	Jérémy/ Barb-Jean/ Julie		
			STYLE		14	J'écoute, j'écoute French perspective
06 - 49 - 14	10 - 27 - 19	Rêve américain Rêve français	CULT CONT KEY BUD	Maureen Charles		
10 - 36 - 10	12 - 13 - 11	American influence Compliments	CULT CONT PERS	Valentin		Valentin gives Japanese then French perspective
15 - 07 - 07	17 - 00 - 10	Information Grandes Ecoles	CULT CONT	Marc		Financial side
24 - 25 - 21	27 - 20 - 05	Baccalauréat	TECH	Nicolas		
27 - 23 - 04	29 - 05 - 23	Economic influence of France	CULT CONT PERSP	Ludovic		Gastronomie
			PERSONAL	Thibault		
37 - 07 - 18	39 - 37 - 01	Europe / Cultural minorities	CULT CONT LOC	Maureen / Tariq Nicolas		
39 - 38 - 03	40 - 51 - 12	Bans on French imports	ATG	Patrice Tom	SEQUENCE 5 18	Reaction + Laughing
40 - 52 - 09	41 - 50 - 15	Legislation on weapons some for/some against	CULT CONT PERSP	Jérémy / Annette	SEQUENCE 5 19	
		Opens Floor	PERSP			(more group discussion)
44 - 40 - 24	47 - 34 - 23	Remakes Sommers by	HEROES	Annette Barb-Jean/Ludovic		
47 - 36 - 15	48 - 53 - 22	Shocked by French films	LOC	Yann		
50 - 55 - 03	51 - 11 - 22	Boy with the hat's hair	FUN		SEQUENCE 14	
			ATG	Maureen	15	Don't get offended, Charles
55 - 00 - 02	57 - 42 - 21	World Police	POS ATG	Guillaume Tariq	SEQUENCE 5 16	You're welcome
57 - 42 - 17	00 - 01 - 21	Products	NEG0 ATG	Sebi/Barb-Jean Annette	SEQUENCE 5 17	

Date: December 1999

APPENDIX XXII Video montage. 48 extracts on video cassette and CD ROM

SEQUENCE	SUBJECT	NUMBER
SEQUENCE 1	INTRODUCTIONS Locus of Control	1. Teachers and whole group
SEQUENCE 2	INTRODUCTIONS Breaking the Ice Locus of control- technical problems	2. Hello, I'm Andrée (04/99) 3. Craig speaks and everyone laughs (04/99) 4. Hello, I'm Superwoman (04/97) 5. Locus of control –technical problems (04/97)
SEQUENCE 3	Intersubjectivity	6. Nadia (04/97) 7. Adam (04/97) 8. Karma (04/97) 9. Lily –whole group (04/97) 10. Fred –whole group (04/97)
SEQUENCE 4	This key buddy thing is really important! Où est mon Etienne?	11. Fran/Etienne (04/99) 12. Kelly- where's Greg? (04/99) 13. Lequel Guillaume? (12/99) 14. Ceci est pour toi ? (12/99)
SEQUENCE 5	An axe to grind? Positioning	15. L'exception culturelle ? (12/99) 16. World Police? (12/99) 17. Cultural products? (12/99) 18. Bans on French imports. (12/99) 19. Weapons legislation (12/99) 20. Le Front National (05.99) 21. Le Front National (05.99) 22. Le Front National (05/98) 23. Ridicule! (04/99) 24. It seems so evident! (04/99) 25. La cuisine américaine (03/99) 26. Fast food/vegetarians (04/99)
SEQUENCE 6	False Understandings	27. Les femmes de ménage (04/97) 28. Le rôle de la critique dans les deux pays (04/99)

		<p>29. Les mariages interculturels (04/97)</p> <p>30. L'humour français/ l'humour américain (04/97)</p> <p>31. Punctuality (05/99)</p> <p>32. Attitudes to authority (05/99)</p>
SEQUENCE 7	<p>Misunderstandings Leading to Dialogue</p> <p>Television</p>	<p>33. A quite too usual question (03/98)</p> <p>34. Baddies/bad guys (04/97)</p> <p>35. Kinda dull –Hélène et les Garçons- Soap operas trivial/petty (04/97)</p>
SEQUENCE 8	<p>Negotiation of Meaning</p> <p>Clarification Moves</p>	<p>36. C'est la langue! (04/97)</p> <p>37. Le facteur (03/98)</p> <p>38. <u>Dans</u> le Grand Meaulnes (04/97)</p>
SEQUENCE 9	<p>Negotiation from misunderstanding</p> <p>Scaffolding</p> <p>Friendship Agreeing to disagree</p>	<p>39. Mélanie Pilou (04/97)</p> <p>40. Agreeing to disagree (05/98)</p>
SEQUENCE 10	<p>Friendship</p> <p>Ami, copain, camarade</p>	<p>41. Ca doit être comme chez vous (03. 98)</p> <p>42. Friendship (03/98)</p> <p>43. Friendship (04/ 99)</p>
SEQUENCE 11	<p>Parents and children</p>	<p>44. Creativity (04/97)</p> <p>45. Discipline (03/98)</p>
SEQUENCE 12	<p>Education</p>	<p>46. Knowledge of USA from television (05/99)</p>
SEQUENCE 13	<p>Attitudes to Authority</p> <p>Towards a global classroom</p>	<p>47. Group discussion (05/98)</p>
SEQUENCE 14	<p>And it's fun!</p>	<p>Montage dancing/hat/ goodbyes</p>

i) SEQUENCE 5,15. L'exception culturelle (12/99)

Charles: As an American citizen, can you explain to us why US films and their big stars have flooded the whole world. Do you see the extent of the domination of your culture over ours? There is currently a movement organised by French film directors to protect the French identity and to enhance 'l'exception culturelle', to protect the 7th Art from American blockbusters. So, Maureen, what do you think?

Solange: I'm not sure that Maureen is prepared to answer this question...

((laughter))

Charles: But she's my penfriend!

((laughter))

Maureen: OK, don't get offended, Charles, ((dazzling smile- laughter from group)) but I think if people want to see American films, I think it's the viewers' choice. If they're popular, it's because people are making them popular, and, as for French directors trying to protect your culture, I think that's insecure. I think they feel threatened. If they weren't so unsure about their culture, I don't think they'd put so many blocks on it. Do you understand what I'm trying to say?

Charles: Yes ((gesture meaning so so- laughter from group)) I'm about to! ((laughter))

Lauren: On the topic, I agree with Maureen and I know that, ... we studied abroad, we studied abroad in Paris a few years ago and I noticed there's a lot of American influence there, that's really true. I remember Titanic was playing at that time, and Good Will Hunting was showing and McDonald's and a lot of American restaurants were there, but I also noticed that the majority of people seeing those movies were French, and so, with all due respect, like Maureen was saying, if XXXX then don't watch them. American music is on the radio, the films are in the theatres but it's the French people listening to the radio and filling those movie theatres that are promoting other films and music and restaurants to come over, so it's really in your hands, rather than a government issue, I think.

Charles: (looking crestfallen) OK, thank-you.

ii) SEQUENCE 5, 16. World Police? (12/99)

Guillaume F.: French people often blame Americans for trying to export their culture abroad and considering themselves as the world police. Do Americans really think they have to rule the world?

Tariq: I'm not willing to pay my taxes to support, you know, an Operation Eisenhower in Africa. American people don't want to be the World Police, we don't wanna pay for our military to go and fix up some other people's mistakes around the world. American soldiers don't wanna be the World Police and the American government doesn't wanna be the World Police. Americans are perceived to be the World Police because we are the only remaining superpower around the world after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1990-1991. Now I'm not willing to go, I don't know, to the South of France and make sure that people don't kill each other there, I think that's something that belongs to the French, you know (XXX) I'm not saying, you know, for example, if the Basques stop their moratorium on violence, I don't think the Americans are going to be over there if anything happens. We're not the World Police. ((Big smile, laughter)) As for ruling the world! I don't know, what we call here in our culture Soft Power or Hard Power. Soft Power is when you have the choice of getting another point of view rather than Hard Power, when you can't get another point of view; that's because there's an American tank sitting in the middle of the street (XXX) and that's not the case. So, again, I don't think we want to become the World Police, and we are

looking forward to Europe to consolidate and become a full partner so, you know, we won't have to deal with, you know, Bosnia, we'll just let the European people deal with Bosnia and we can deal with this part of the world. So, again, being the World Superpower is not fun and I hope you guys get your act together ((laughter))

iii) SEQUENCE 5, 17. Cultural Products? (12/99)

Mathieu: I wanted to know, as the World Trade Organisation Conference has just begun in Seattle, what do you think of the (sic) Europe's fight for cultural identity?

Barbara-Jean: (smiles) Um, I'm not sure I understand exactly what you're talking about, I don't know if you could maybe clarify....

Mathieu: Because the United States want to, they consider that cultural products like movies or TV programmes are just a product like a computer and Europe wants to protect their cultural industry and the United States want the Europeans to stop that, er they want to stop this.

Solange: Annette's going to take this question.

Annette: OK, erm, I'm not quite sure that I know what you're saying. I think what you're trying to tell me is that Europe wants, erm, to treat products, cultural American products like movies and television, as something that's there to protect the culture; whereas America wants these products to be looked at as just that, just as a product, like a computer, so that they can be traded freely and that by doing it. (...) I think I'd have to agree, erm, I think most Americans really chafe at the idea of a ban on something that's cultural, something that's kind of an expression of our culture. It's like, like saying, well, you can't, you can't express your American culture, we're, we're not gonna let you do that. I think people, people really don't like that. Um, I'm sorry (looks at teacher) I don't think I'm answering the question very well for you but I don't, America doesn't see, I don't think we recognise a fight for identity by banning cultural products. I don't think they think that's a good idea, I think they see that as, you know insecurity, American products dominating your economy. You know they hear a phrase like 'American products are just gonna take over' and that's why you're trying to ban them.... (To teacher) Sorry, that wasn't very good.

iv) SEQUENCE 5, 20. Le Front National(05.99)

Anna: Est-ce qu'il y a un problème avec les immigrants en France aujourd'hui? Si votre réponse est oui, commentez s'il vous plaît sur votre position envers les immigrants et l'immigration.

Grégory: Oui, il y a un problème avec les immigrants aujourd'hui, mais en fait il y en a toujours eu en France depuis le début du 20^{ème} siècle. On a d'abord eu les Italiens, et puis après les Portugais et donc, maintenant on est passé aux Arabes. ((laughter, points to Alexis)) Il y même des Grecs.

Andrée: Il y en a au moins un!

((laughter))

((Alexis smiles, shrugs and gestures))

Grégory: Alors, j'ai décomposé le problème en deux parties. Donc, premièrement les Français: donc, on a tout d'abord on vote, les votes de 15% des Français, alors pour Le Pen- donc, Le Pen c'est le dirigeant d'un parti qui est un peu raciste et qui est monté depuis 1986 en France. Donc, en bref, son message c'est que la France doit appartenir aux Français et que le chômage est dû aux immigrés. Alors, er, donc, en fait, certains Français croient que tous les problèmes dans les cités (donc, c'est là où il y a les grands immeubles ((laughter)) sont dus aux immigrés. Désolé ! Du point de vue des immigrés maintenant : ils ont un peu un sentiment de rejet, donc, ils se sentent mal acceptés et certains réagissent mal en faisant des excédents de violence. Bon, de plus on a les réactions bizarres des hommes politiques:

normalement, en France, on a 0% d'immigration mais on remarque qu'il y a énormément d'immigrants illégaux qui rentrent, qui rentrent en France et qui ne sont pas, qui ne sont pas rejetés aux frontières, même quand on les découvre. C'est un peu une mauvaise solution parce que les immigrants illégaux sont, donc, assez privés de leurs droits dès qu'ils sont en France ; ils se font, par exemple, exploiter par des entreprises donc, en étant très peu payés, ou autrement se font renvoyer du jour au lendemain. Donc, voilà ce qu'il faudrait, ça serait d'autoriser l'immigration mais mettre peut-être des quotas comme les Etats-Unis. Voilà.

v) SEQUENCE 5, 21. Le Front National (05.99)

Craig: Comment est-ce que le Front National a influencé la France ces dernières années? Est-ce que vous pensez que le Front National a plus de membres maintenant que dans le passé?

((laughter))

Karine: Donc, il me semble que le Front National a été le plus influent il y a à peu près environ 2 ans, au moment des dernières élections présidentielles en France, où il a fait, donc, un score record d'à peu près 12%, même un peu plus, je me rappelle plus. Donc, c'est à dire qu'un certain nombre d'idées se sont répandues au sein de la société française, notamment en ce qui concerne les étrangers, par rapport aux problèmes de chômage. Donc le Front National développe l'idée que les étrangers sont la seule cause du chômage et si on renvoie les étrangers dans leur pays, tous les Français pourront retrouver un emploi ou quasiment. Donc, en fait, il développe une solution plutôt de facilité mais qui ne semble pas efficace, mais ces solutions peuvent séduire les Français qui sont de plus en plus déçus par tous les hommes politiques. Il développe également une thèse, donc, concernant les frontières, donc, il faudrait fermer les frontières de la France, c'est-à-dire que chacune des entreprises françaises achète uniquement dans le pays, de manière à faire fonctionner l'économie. Mais ça semble assez peu réaliste parce que les entreprises étrangères achètent également dans le pays et font vivre l'économie. Mais, donc, aujourd'hui, le Front National semble en perte d'influence, notamment à cause d'une guerre des chefs que maintenant donc il s'est scindé en deux mouvements. Mais on assiste aussi à un développement d'autres petits mouvements, c'est dire que les idées qu'a développées le Front National restent toujours quand même présentes, par exemple des mouvements notamment anti-européens, peut-être celui de Duvilliers et des mouvements de ce genre, qui ne se disent pas forcément anti-étrangers mais qui sont peut-être aussi dangereux parce que peut-être un peu plus sournois avec les idées plus cachées. Voilà ce que je voulais dire sur le Front National. Je ne sais pas si ça répond à tes questions ?

Craig: Oui, très bon !

((laughter))

Karine: Thank-you !

vi) SEQUENCE 5, 22. Le Front National (05.98)

Aimée: Dans le film "La Crise", le frère de Michou vit avec une femme arabe. Il semblerait qu'il y ait des problèmes de cohabitation avec les Arabes en France, qui sont illustrés dans ce film. Pouvez-vous m'en parler ?

Jean-Yves: Il faut savoir qu'en France, il y a une partie historique qui est très importante par rapport aux Etats-Unis je pense. Il y a un héritage. Depuis très très longtemps la France a eu besoin de lutter pour défendre son sol. Et donc il y a une peur ancrée dans la population; une peur de perdre son identité. Donc, ça c'est un premier point qui peut expliquer certains comportements. Ensuite, par rapport aux Arabes spécifiquement, il faut savoir que la France a beaucoup d'arrière-pays, en Afrique, avec les colonies, notamment en Algérie, et ça a provoqué des tensions

avec les populations qui ont dû revenir en France après la guerre d'Algérie. Ensuite, à propos de ce problème-là, on peut parler deje sais pas si vous êtes au courant, mais il y a eu un problème dans l'école française, à propos du tchador des femmes musulmanes, et en fait c'est très spécifique de l'école française, dont la caractéristique est d'être laïque, c'est-à-dire pas de religion à l'école. Donc ce serait plutôt cet aspect-là et non pas le racisme envers les populations arabes qui peut expliquer les tensions. Et après, la question pour le Front National, il faut savoir que le vote pour le Front National, ce n'est pas uniquement un vote de racisme ou d'exclusion, mais il y a également une partie qui est explicable par le rejet des autres partis, et c'est un vote de refus de la politique en soi, ce n'est pas un vote d'adhésion. Voilà, je ne sais pas si j'ai répondu à la question....

(Jean-Yves is asked to repeat his answer as sound loss has distorted his voice.)

Je disais donc que le problème de la cohabitation avec les Arabes en France, on peut lier ça à l'histoire de la France qui est beaucoup plus ancienne que celle des Etats-Unis, pour comparer. Cette histoire est liée à de nombreuses guerres qu'il y a eu en Europe et durant lesquelles la France a eu besoin de se défendre, contre des agressions vraiment contre son sol, et donc je pense que c'est ça qui a provoqué une espèce d'angoisse de la part des Français vis à vis de leur identité culturelle et de l'identité de leur nation. Donc ça peut expliquer peut-être une tension par rapport aux étrangers. Ensuite à propos du problème spécifique avec les Arabes, il y a eu un problème récemment dans les écoles françaises : le problème du tchador pour les filles musulmanes. Mais ça peut être expliqué par le caractère spécifiquement laïque de l'école française, l'idée étant qu'il ne doit pas y avoir de religion à l'école, la religion et l'école ne doivent rien avoir en commun. C'est une question d'égalité entre les étudiants, et donc ça peut expliquer le problème avec les Arabes. Ensuite, à propos du vote pour le Front National, il faut savoir que pour une grande partie des électeurs, ce n'est pas simplement un vote raciste, il s'agit également d'un vote de protestation et d'un vote de rejet des partis politiques traditionnels et de la vie politique en général. Bien qu'évidemment les idées du Front National soient tout à fait condamnables, et la majorité des Français les rejettent. Il faut savoir que ce n'est pas un vote dans un but de racisme et d'exclusion uniquement. C'est ce qui explique peut-être les gros scores du Front National. Voilà.

Andry: Est-ce que je pourrais ajouter quelque chose ? Donc en fait, je dirais que je pense qu'il n'y a pas vraiment de problème particulier à la France vis à vis des Arabes. Je pense que c'est un problème qui existe à peu près dans tous les pays du monde, c'est-à-dire qu'il y aura toujours une partie de la population qui sera disons rejetée, c'est-à-dire que je crois savoir qu'il y a à peu près le même problème vis à vis des Arabes, enfin le problème qu'il y a vis à vis des Arabes en France, je crois que c'est à peu près le même vis à vis des Mexicains aux Etats-Unis, il y a le même problème vis à vis des Indiens en Angleterre, il y a le même problème des Indiens à Madagascar, donc je pense que dans tous les pays du monde il y a exactement ce genre de problème et il se trouve qu'en France, la population visée c'est particulièrement les Arabes. Je pense qu'on peut le voir comme ça.

Aimée: Merci pour cette réponse.

Molly: Dans "La Crise", pourquoi est-ce que Michou dit que les étrangers sont responsables des problèmes sociaux au lieu d'accuser l'élite bourgeoise ?

Andry: Là, j'aurais la même réponse que tout à l'heure, c'est pareil dans tous les pays : dès qu'il y a un problème, il faut qu'on trouve que ce sont les étrangers qui sont responsables. Il faut trouver un bouc émissaire, et le bouc émissaire le plus facile c'est de dire "bon ben voilà, il y a des étrangers, c'est eux qui posent des problèmes" Donc je pense que la réponse serait la même, on va pas trouver le problème chez les gens qui sont riches : parce qu'ils ont de l'argent, ils ne peuvent pas poser de problème. Je ne dis pas que je suis d'accord avec ça, je dis simplement

que c'est comme ça dans tous les pays et malheureusement je pense que ce n'est pas particulier à la France

vii) SEQUENCE 5, 23. Ridicule (04/99)

Kelly: Aux Etats-Unis nous avons une tendance à évaluer le caractère des hommes publics selon les actions de leur vie privée. Pour être un bon président, par exemple, il est important de montrer un bon caractère et des valeurs familiales - d'où le scandale du Président Clinton. Quelle est l'opinion publique en France concernant ce scandale?

Jean-Louis: En fait, en France, on trouve ça un peu ridicule, qu'un président soit mis en accusation, soit gêné par quelque chose qui ne regarde que sa vie privée. On avait eu un président, il y a quelques années, qui avait eu des relations extra-conjugales - c'était François Mitterrand. C'est pas pour ça qu'il a été démis de ses fonctions, qu'il a été renvoyé. Personnellement je pense que si tout le monde se comportait - avait les mêmes exigences concernant sa vie privée et celle des hommes politiques - il n'y aura pas de scandale. Donc, je trouve ça un peu ridicule, c'est tout. Fini!

viii) SEQUENCE 5, 25. La Cuisine Américaine (02/99)

Jack: Quelle est votre impression de la cuisine américaine? -comme il y a beaucoup de restaurants américains en France maintenant.

Andry: Alors, je vais vous répondre franchement, sans vouloir... Déjà les restaurants américains qu'on voit en France, ce sera principalement des restaurants du type "McDonald's", donc je sais pas si on peut vraiment considérer ça comme étant de la cuisine, dans la mesure où... Enfin déjà je sais pas si on peut considérer ça comme de la bonne cuisine, ou alors d'autre part, il y aura les restaurants plus distingués du genre "Hard Rock Café", et du même type, les "Tex Mex", en général... et là l'impression que j'aurais ce serait plutôt qu'il y a une dominante de cuisine mexicaine, c'est-à-dire que globalement, même ayant été aux Etats-Unis, la cuisine américaine pour moi, ça s'est restreint à des steacks, des frites... enfin j'ai peut-être une mauvaise vision de la cuisine américaine, hein ? ... ou des sandwichs, c'est-à-dire que quand on va dans un restaurant américain, ce sera "hamburger" ou "sandwich", "Chicken Club Sandwich"... c'est souvent ce qu'on trouvera en fait. Donc, c'est pas très évolué.

ix) SEQUENCE 6, 30. L'humour français/ l'humour anglais (04/97) and SEQUENCE 8, 36. C'est la langue! (04/97)

Leila: Mon correspondant, Frédéric, s'excuse souvent de ses plaisanteries. Quand je les comprends, je les trouve amusantes, mais souvent je ne comprends pas. Est-ce que vous trouvez une différence entre le sens de l'humour français et américain, par exemple dans les films ou les livres?

Frédéric: ((smiles and waves)) A propos des plaisanteries que tu ((others laugh)) que tu ne comprends pas, j'aimerais que tu précises en fait euh. Quels types de plaisanteries tu ne comprends pas?

Leila: Ooh uh la langue?

Frédéric: C'est à cause du français?

Leila: Oui.

Frédéric: Ou est-ce que c'est à cause du sens. ... (no response) Est-ce que c'est parce que: parce que j'utilise mal le- la langue anglaise? ou est-ce que c'est parce que euh ce que je dis n'est pas drôle aux Etats-Unis?

((laughter))

S: Maintenant tu t'appliques.

S: Non, tu n'es pas drôle.

Leila: C'est la langue.

((laughter))

Frédéric: Alors y a pas de malentendu? non? ((no response from Leila)) c'est pas grave. De mon point de vue en tout cas, je trouve pas qu'il y ait beaucoup de différences, dans les films, que j'ai vus, entre l'humour français et l'humour américain, parce que, pratiquement, je pense à chaque fois dans les films où il y'avait un instant ou un moment qui était drôle, nous sommes à chaque fois réceptifs à cet (XXX) à cet instant-là, et nous rions de bon cœur, donc je pense qu'on rit aux mêmes endroits, quoi.

Nadia: C'est l'humour visuel. xxx comedies de situation xxx la tarte à la crème xxx par exemple chez nous plus de société.

Thomas: Oui. Il y a Nadia qui me dit, euhm que peut-être aux Etats-Unis, euh on joue plus, euh sur l'humour de situation. c'est-à-dire euh des-des événements qui arrivent aux gens, euh je sais pas, des chutes, le fait de tomber euh que ce soit dans les escaliers de tomber par terre ou comme ça- ça peut être drôle, donc des humours de situation, alors qu'en France on- on attache plus de sens euh à ce que l'on dit. on s'attache davantage euh au contenu des paroles, il peut y avoir des réflexions sur- sur euh la politique du pays, euh qui sont humoristiques. c'est pas tout à fait le même genre de d'humour, mais euh, je pense que c'est compréhensible dans les deux sens, à la fois par les Français et par les Américains, à condition de de comprendre euh la situation euh dans laquelle euh on se place.... par exemple pour l'humour politique, pour le comprendre, il faut euh connaître un petit peu la situation politique bien sûr. mais sinon, il n'y a pas de différence. ça te va? de rien.

x) SEQUENCE 7, 33. A quite too usual question (03/98)

Grégory: So first, I'd like to apologize because the question I'm going to ask you is, well according to me, quite too usual, (looks at teacher) so well, I'm also convinced that you're probably fed up with being asked this question. What's the importance of TV in your everyday life?

Solange: We have someone in our class who works for the local television station. Cassie Brown. So she's going to answer the question first, and then maybe there might be some other people who'd like to try.

Cassie : The importance of TV obviously in my life is very important because I work in Television everyday. But I think TV has become so important in the lives of American Kids, because a lot of these kids are what we call "latch-key" kids, and what they are, they're kids who have keys to their house, nobody's at home when they get home from school, so the first thing they do is pop on the television. And that becomes their babysitter, or somebody watching after them 'til their parents come home, so I think Television has a huge influence over kids. Hopefully they see between right or wrong when they see something that's happening on TV that's not something you should do, like shooting somebody or whatever, but I think television has become very important with the access of cable television that we have, up to 60 channels of different types of TV we can watch at one point of time and I think that's become a huge influence over our lives in America.

Grégory: Thank you.

Jane: I think your question is great; I'm not offended at all. I think it's a very, very intelligent question. I think, a college student... I know that I'm hardly able to watch TV 'cause I'm busy riding around, and I work, and all sorts of things that prevent me from watching television, and by the time I get ----- it's about one o'clock in the morning and there's nothing good on anyway. So for college students it's usually not very significant, but I do know, like she said, when I was younger and I would come home from school I would watch TV from 4 o'clock 'til 8 or 9 o'clock at night, you know, and I would do my work in between and stuff...

But kids watch a lot of TV, and adults who have time, I think, usually watch a lot of TV.

Grégory : What do you watch ? I mean, do you watch soap operas, or only news ? Tell me, tell us...

Jane : Personally, I don't watch soap operas, 'cause I'm not interested by them, and they're in the middle of the day when I'm at school, anyway... I try to watch the news, but the news programs in America are more like magazine shows, I mean we have about 5 or 10 minutes of the actual news you know.

Grégory : You mean there are too many images?

Jane : It's not... They don't give you all the news in the world. They give you what's happening locally, and then some national news, and they go on with inside stories about medication, or you know "somebody in Springfield did something good and this is what happened"... Not the most important things, to me at least. But in the afternoon there's talk-shows, cartoons, sitcoms, all sorts of things, you know that when I would come home from school I would watch. Now I don't watch really much anything, except maybe David Letterman.

Joanne: I live on a floor with 22 first-year college students, and although TV has no existence in my life, I have no time to watch television, all these girls are about 18 years old, and they rely on the evening soap operas to regulate their fashion standards, and their etiquette... what they're supposed to listen to, how they should walk and talk and act you know... So it's not really important to us because we're busy, but to younger people I guess it is because it shows you how you're supposed to act ((flicks her hair back over her shoulder and smiles))

((laughter))

Molly: Can I ask you a question Gregory ? Do you guys watch a lot of television?

Grégory: Do I watch a lot of television?

Molly: Yeah.

Grégory: You know, I live in a very small apartment very small... I mean only 12 square meters. I've got a very small television but I only use it to play some video games. Well I play video games very scarcely. I mean I don't watch TV very often, definitely not. What I prefer is probably films. It's true that I do feel that news and soap operas are definitely boring. That's my opinion.

Molly: Well I was just curious if there's a lot of American influence on programming over there...

Grégory: Yeah definitely. There are many soap operas which come from America, such as X-files,... series such as X-files, or Friends, (Elizabeth: That's a sitcom), Beverly Hills, Baywatch ... Well, I can add something ? There is a sitcom that I like, there is one, it's "Friends". I like Friends, very much, do you like Friends

Americans: Yeah!

Grégory: But that's the only one I like.

Molly: Do you watch the Simpsons at all ?

Grégory: I used to, but I was younger. I stopped.

Solange: OK, one more thing to say, one more comment.

Jane: This is just something interesting about television and possessions here in America. When I lived with my parents, we had 5 televisions in our house. One for my Dad, one for my mother, one in my room, one in my niece and nephew's playroom, and one, a little one in the kitchen for my mom to watch the news while she's making dinner.

Grégory: Do you watch TV when you have lunch ?

Americans: Yes.

Solange: Well you have to know what lunch is : lunch lasts about 10 minutes!

Grégory: So you don't have time to talk with others when you have lunch?

Cassie: Well, it depends on the time you have to eat. If you only have 30 minutes, then usually you don't have a conversation with somebody. You just eat your food and go back to work.

Elizabeth: OK, so perhaps we should stop now.

xi) SEQUENCE 8, 37. Le facteur (04/98)

Joanne: Quand vous avez quelqu'un chez vous, dans quelles pièces êtes-vous le plus à l'aise ? Avec un ami ? un voisin ? un facteur ? et pourquoi ?

Jean-Yves: Donc, on en a un peu discuté et on en a conclu qu'en France, la différence entre un ami et un voisin, c'est que le voisin on le laisse juste dans le salon (in the lounge) alors que l'ami, on se permet de le faire rentrer dans toutes les pièces, dans les chambres, la cuisine... et on a pas de problème. Et le facteur, ça nous a un peu surpris comme question, parce qu'en France, les facteurs, souvent ils restent dehors. Sauf si c'est dans les petits villages comme ça où on connaît bien le facteur, à ce moment-là, on peut lui offrir un verre mais bon, en général le facteur ça rentre pas dans la maison. On a été intrigué par cette question, pourquoi le facteur d'ailleurs ?

Joanne: Pourquoi le facteur ?... Je sais pas, je sais pas.

Solange: Parce qu'il rentre chez vous ?

Joanne: Non, non ; c'était pour plaisanter

Jean-Yves: OK, on avait bien compris comme ça alors. Si, si c'était très drôle. Voilà, je sais pas si j'ai répondu à la question

Joanne: Oui, oui

Jean-Yves: OK, voilà

vii) SEQUENCE 8, 38. Dans Le Grand Meaulnes (04/97)

Mary: J'ai lu Le Grand Meaulnes et je voudrais savoir la différence, en France, entre les écoles publiques et les écoles privées Catholiques. Quelle est la réputation des anciens élèves des internats Catholiques? Je voudrais aussi savoir s'il est normal dans les écoles françaises d'avoir un maître comme le Grand Meaulnes, dont tout le monde a peur.

((while Martha is talking, the image from the French classroom turns fuzzy and white, then disappears.))

Nadia: ((laughs)) voilà. ((xxx)) bon on va arranger après. euh donc a propos de- oui j'essaie d'arranger l'image en même temps, c'est pas possible, c'est bon là? voilà. euh alors à propos des écoles Catholiques. euh en France, il faut d'abord dire que l'école publique, a une assez bonne réputation en France, contrairement par exemple à l'école en Angleterre où seulement les- où les écoles publiques sont considérées comme moins bonnes, ici pas du tout, l'école publique a une très bonne réputation, cela dit il y a beaucoup d'endroits où on trouve par exemple que des écoles privées, c'est le cas en Bretagne, euh je pense pas qu'il y a ((xxx)) vraiment très négatif par rapport à ces écoles, ça dépend desquelles, je pense qu'il y en a qui sont plus ou moins bonnes, c'est à dire il existe des écoles privées qui sont des écoles, plus de: de rattrapage ((ou bon)) des fois il y a des gens qui ont plus de mal à suivre dans un cursus classique, mais: c'est pas une généralité il y a aussi d'excellentes écoles qui sont euh Catholiques.... ya pas vraiment de différence de niveau en règle général c'est au cas par cas. euh: sinon, comment on considère les élèves qui sortent des écoles Catholiques, ben comme les autres, je dirais, on fait vraiment pas de différence je sais pas si (xxx) oui?

Bruno: Ben oui, moi j'étais en (xxx) Catholique, ça se voit pas?

((discussion and laughter about Bruno's collar))

Nadia: xxx un petit peu sur euh bon j'ai pas tellement bien compris, de- à propos du Grand Meaulnes parce que le le le Grand Meaulnes c'est pas un professeur, euh dans le dans le livre? Alors est-ce que c'est peut-être un maître à penser? que tous les autres respectent euh je pense que: enfin dans un groupe d'enfants ya- y en a toujours quelques-uns qui ont un peu plus de: de prise sur les autres, que les

autres ont tendance à admirer, peut-être mais:: Oui. dans ce cas là je dirais oui, mais: je sais pas est-ce que c'était ça la question? ((no response))

Nadia: Oui, mais dans le Grand Meaulnes le Grand Meaulnes c'est un élève, c'est pas un maître.

Bruno: Oui, mais c'est un maître... c'est un peu le grand frère.

Nadia: Mais- d'abord un maître comme le Grand Meaulnes ya marqué.

Elizabeth: Comme dans le Grand Meaulnes.

Nadia: Ah, comme dans le Grand Meaulnes. ah j'ai compris! ((points and smiles at the camera)) d'accord. Alors euh:m, oui y a eu pendant longtemps je pense des maîtres qui avaient vraiment beaucoup d'autorité sur leurs élèves, je pense que ce temps-là est un peu révolu parce que comme disait Guillaume, maintenant on ((xxx)) un peu plus vers une éducation, on laisse plus de part à l'initiative des enfants eux-mêmes, euh essayer de développer leur imagination et cetera, euh avec donc une éducation moins stricte que ce qu'il y avait avant. Voilà. C'est un livre qui est quand même assez vieux, de ce point de vue-là.

xiii) SEQUENCE 9, 39. Mélanie Pilou. (04/97)

Isabelle: I also sent you a review of 'Les Malheurs de Sophie' Sophie is a little girl who's got all the ~~defects~~ (sic) a child can have and her mother gives her, well some hard punishment. I didn't read Mélanie Pilou, who's a girl who received kein er (('kein!' from one of the French students)), er, no punishments. So how does this compare, how does Les Malheurs de Sophie compare with Mélanie Pilou?

Karma: I read Mélanie Pilou and she gets, she, her Mother said she always interferes with everything, that everybody does. You know she always wants to know what everybody's doing. She takes the biggest piece of cake and that kind of thing! ((laughter))

But in the end she just starts screaming because she's upset, she's like Wah! and she goes mute. So she punishes herself.

One of the French students: Ah, d'accord, j'avais pas compris Oh O.K I hadn't understood.

Karma: And then she becomes a good girl, I don't know why.

One of the French students: We didn't hear you.

Elizabeth: We really can't hear you! We can hear half of what you are saying but not the other half.

Karma: Oh, I'm sorry. In the end of the book she yells very loudly, like I'm doing now and she loses her voice, which I hope I don't.

Elizabeth: ((to French class)). She loses her voice.

Karma: She goes mute. (with gesture)

One of the French students: Ah! OK, she can't speak any more.

Karma: You're really smart! ((Laughter and applause))

xiv) SEQUENCE 9, 40 Agreeing to Disagree (05/98)

Andrée: The second part, Andry /Elizabeth : Second part

Andry: What do you think about the way Pierre speaks to Michel during the nappy changing scene ?

Elizabeth: Diaper.

US student: Thank-you

Joanne: Solange kind of explained that scene for us, because she was telling us the reason that they talk to each other that way is because they have a certain level of friendship and they're allowed to talk to each other that way. But it did have to be explained to us, because, you know, you just, I don't know, we didn't understand the relationship between the conversation they have and the expression of their friendship, the level of their friendship.

Andry: They're friends, and it's a situation where they're really nervous. It's something they hadn't done before, so they're really nervous, and it's normal that when you're nervous, you He's not angry at his friend, but he's just nervous, so he expresses his nervousness, [his nervousness, right] his nervousness that way. I think, but I mean

Joanne: Right. When Americans first watch it, it looks like a very angry scene. And that's why I said it had to be explained to us by Solange, cause it looks sort of angry, and like they're really yelling at each other and so on...

Andry: But they're not really angry I mean, they're angry but I mean 10 minutes later they won't be angry anymore. It's [Right] just for the moment.

Joanne: (to American teacher) It's the same in the English version, isn't it ?

(to Andry) It's the same in the English version I think

Nivedita: No... I don't think it is the same. You can't really say that they are angry, because it's perhaps a French way of reacting. As Andry has said, it's just because they have never done it before. And they don't know how to react, so a way of expelling their nervousness is just to yell at each other. It was not the same in the English version. They were much more calm and all that. So..... that was...

Joanne: Well, they appear to be more, they appear to be more calm, but in one scene, erm, I think--- what's his name? [Michael] The one with the curly hair...

Michael says "God damn", "God damn it Peter! ", ~~that's~~ getting mad! I wasn't saying that they were angry in the French version, I was saying that when you first watch it as an American, it appears to be an angry scene. [Aha] That's why it had to be explained to us by Solange. [OK, OK, all right]

Nivedita:but it's not the same level in fact. In the French version and in the American version, it's not the ... I think the feeling is perhaps all the same but the way the characters express it is different from

Joanne: Oh I agree, I agree. / **Nivedita:** All right.

xv) SEQUENCE 10, 41. Ca doit être comme chez vous. (03/98)

Lucy: Pouvez-vous nous expliquer la différence entre un "ami", un "copain" et un "camarade"?

Grégory: Bon, alors en fait, tu as raison ; il y a effectivement trois niveaux d'amitié. Le niveau de camarade, le niveau de copain et le niveau d'ami. Bon, en France, ça doit être comme chez vous, le niveau le plus profond, disons, c'est celui d'ami, parce que l'ami c'est quelqu'un avec qui on entretient une relation de complicité. Disons qu'avec un ami, on peut avoir des conversations sérieuses, alors qu'avec un simple camarade, ce sera davantage des relations d'ordre professionnel. Par exemple, on a ce qu'on appelle des "camarades de travail", donc ce sont des gens avec qui on travaille, mais avec qui on aura pas forcément des conversations intéressantes et avec qui on parlera beaucoup. Et après il reste le niveau de copain. Là c'est davantage quelqu'un avec qui on va sortir, on va aller en soirée, mais avec qui on aura pas forcément non plus des conversations très sérieuses. Donc voilà, je sais pas si j'ai été clair...

Jack: Qu'est-ce que vous avez le plus, des amis, des copains ou des camarades ?

Grégory: Bon, je crois qu'il est plutôt difficile d'avoir beaucoup d'amis ; c'est généralement des copains ou des camarades qu'on a, et de véritables amis on en a un ou deux, on peut pas en avoir cinquante. Donc, en fait ce que j'ai le plus en fait c'est des copains, voire des camarades d'école. Ici, à droite, c'est un copain qui va peut-être devenir un ami.

Jack: Quand vous avez un ami, est-ce qu'il est votre ami pour la vie ?

Grégory: Généralement oui, une fois qu'on a décidé qu'une personne était notre ami, c'est vrai qu' à moins qu'on se soit vraiment trompé, il devrait rester votre ami pour la vie. Mais on n'est pas à l'abri d'un coup vache de sa part, on n'est pas à l'abri d'être trahi, d'une trahison. Mais généralement, un ami on le garde pour la vie, oui. Moi, par exemple, j'ai un ami que j'ai connu quand j'étais petit, à l'école,

donc j'étais... quand j'avais 6-7 ans. C'était un ami, c'était un Belge, il venait de Belgique ; donc on a fait trois ans d'études ensemble et après, par la suite, il a dû repartir en Belgique et donc on s'est plus jamais revu mais pourtant on continue à correspondre par courrier, ou par e-mail. Et je ne le vois plus mais ça reste un ami avec qui je peux avoir des conversations très sérieuses par e-mail. J't'en prie, you're welcome.

xvi) SEQUENCE 10, 42 Friendship. (03/98)

Jérôme: I have a second question: for you, what is the definition of a friend?

Samantha: I think that's actually kind of a difficult question. I consider people friends... Like, a friend is more loosely defined here. If I knew someone in my class, I may call her my friend even though we don't call each other after the class or go out together or anything like that, but I wanna ask the question back: I think in France friends are closer, like you know, closer----- to a friend than a casual acquaintance, is that right?

Jérôme: Well I don't know how it is in America but in France, a real friend is someone who's capable of listening to you, capable of helping you if you need help, and with whom you can have fun. Maybe we're closer in....

Joanne: I think that even though we don't have different names for different levels of friendship, we do have different levels of friendship. The difference is, that if we are in a class with someone, and we're talking to someone else we may say: "Hey, that's my friend from French Class", or something like that, but we don't necessarily mean that it's a friend that we're gonna tell our whole personal life to. But there are friends that you just go and hang out with and do stuff with, you know at the movies or skating or whatever, and then there are friends that you would tell your personal secrets to, that you would confide to and expect them to do the same.

Andry: Well. I have two questions. First: a friend comes to you and tells you that he's done a big mistake. Not necessarily with you but he's made something really bad. How would you react in front of that?

Cassie: I think it all depends on what they've done. If they've committed some hideous crime, I would go to the police and tell them, but if it was something small like they cheated on their girlfriend or boyfriend whatever, I would just listen to them and maybe offer a little bit of advice and hopefully they will learn from the situation. I mean this all depends on what kind of thing that they did, what did they do wrong, so it all depends on what the act is, of the other friend.

Andry: I mean, if it's not something really bad you just try and comfort him, that's it.

Cassie: Yeah, usually we just try to listen to them, be a good friend, a good listener, and offer them a little bit of advice, try not to tell them what to do, but usually they'll come to you and tell you that there's something that they did wrong because they want someone who can listen to them and give them a little bit of advice. I think.

Andry: Thank you. And my other question would be: how do you consider a person who doesn't have any friends?

Aimée: That person is disadvantaged because they're missing out on life's great great asset, in order to learn not only about yourself, but about the world, you learn through friendships and the ----- that you acquire through those friendships and that person, he's just lost..

Andry: But do you think that it's his fault, or do you think that it's the other ones' fault? I mean, do you think that he doesn't want to have any friend, or do you think that it's the other people who don't want to speak with him and to be friend with him?

Aimée: Well, I wouldn't necessarily put the blame on him but at the same time it depends on whether this person wants to learn by others, or is he putting himself

or herself in a situation to get to know others. If he's not doing that, it is his fault or her fault. He should be responsible for his action.

Jack: We have a saying in our country that says: "To have a friend you must first be a friend." Does that answer your question?

Thiébaud: OK, and I have a second question: do you think that the way that children are brought up in the United States is changing? And if so in which direction?

Caitlin: Well I believe that on the positive side they have a lot more opportunities. Such as--- Almost all of them have to go school, and what they learn at school is becoming a lot tougher, you guys are trying to base it on, you know, Japanese and Chinese standards now, and raise our education level. But on the negative they take everything for granted, they no longer believe that they should have rules, and I don't know, they go crazy whenever anybody tries to set rules on them, and they're no longer responsible for anything that they do... Their parents jump in, or rescue them, and we have a lot more I wouldn't say "criminals" but "juvenile delinquents" I just know that when I was a kid I got into a lot more trouble than even my younger brother did and it keeps... it, it grows... parents seem to be too worried about their own careers anymore than raising their children, and a lot of the households here are single-parent homes. That's a very big question, so...

Thiébaud: Yes I have another two questions on the relation between parents and children. So first of all French adolescents are said to be brought up too strictly. Do you agree with that point of view? And if you do, in what way do you think they are brought up too strictly?

Caitlin: I don't know anything about how French adolescents are brought up so I can't really answer that question, but I think there should be rules for kids, like I know when I was growing up I had a curfew, at certain times I had to be home like when I went out, and my parents also wanted to know where I was, and if I was gonna be home late I had to call and tell them so they wouldn't worry. So I think it's a lot about respect. So if you are not gonna call your parents are gonna worry if you're late. So I think there should be rules. But nothing too extreme, I don't think... if you are really strict with your kids and then once they are in college they're on their own and they can go kinda wild and they're not used to having rules but once they don't have them [XXX]
((laughter))

xvii) SEQUENCE 10, 43 Friendship. (04/99)

Alexis: What question would you never dare to ask a friend, even if he or she is a true friend or a "best friend"?

Solange: We have no one who accepted to answer that!
((laughter))

Francesca: Hi, I'll answer your question! Hi! All my questions got skipped! I was going to talk about the telephone... Erm, I think that once you have, like you say, a true friend, or what we consider a best friend, than I think there really aren't any questions that you wouldn't ask them, because you feel comfortable enough telling them anything they want to know. Like, even with people who aren't really good friends, I think Americans are pretty open. Like, [points to student next to her] Jane, when she was pregnant and she said "I'm pregnant" and we're all "Yea!"
((laughter)). I think people ask, I think people ask really personal questions in America; and I think, like, people are OK answering them, like. Erm, I guess things that might not be asked would be things like if you think that something's happening you might not want to ask about it, sometimes. Like if you think a child might be being hit too much by his parents or something, you might not want to ask the parents but you might go ahead and ask the child. I think we ask all questions but it's not all the time of all the people. Does that make sense?

Alexis: Yeah, of course.

xviii) SEQUENCE 11, 46, Creativity. (04/97)

Lily: Selon Carroll, les parents américains encouragent les petits à être créateurs. Quelle est l'attitude des parents français à l'heure actuelle?

Guillaume: A vrai dire j'ai pas encore trop réfléchi à la question, hier j'étais encore en vacances, alors je vais faire une petite improvisation, mais je pense que la différence entre les parents américains et les parents français est quand même relativement flagrante. Aux Etats-Unis c'est vrai que les parents laissent plus de liberté à leurs enfants, alors que l'éducation en France est plutôt stricte, assez rigide, mais depuis euh soixante-huit les parents ont tendance à laisser euh plus cours à l'esprit créatif euh de leurs enfants. mais ça se ressent encore, Isabelle le disait euh tout à l'heure, au niveau des entreprises. Si les Américains réussissent mieux en créant une entreprise, c'est que déjà, petits, ils sont habitués à créer, à faire beaucoup de choses. tandis qu'en France on peut voir que l'échec est un peu associé à l'éducation un peu trop stricte, même si ça se: si c'est moins rigide en ce moment c'est un peu dû à l'éducation des parents quand même.

Lily: Très bien. Merci.

Guillaume: De rien

xix) SEQUENCE 11, 45, Discipline. (03/ 98)

Yann: OK. Thank you. I have a second question: do you agree that it is very important for an American child not to be punished in front of his or her friend?

Jane: If two children are at someone's home and they get in a fight ...something happens and one of them needs to be punished, I think it's OK you know, if it happens there, but in America you have to be careful if you do that in public because, if your way of disciplining a child is to spank it or to yell at it or something like that, you can be put in jail if somebody (XXX). So in public, be very careful if you want to punish your child without just saying, you know, "don't do that, don't do that !". You'd have to go somewhere private if you wanted to do more.

((Laughter))

Yann: OK, thank you.

xx) SEQUENCE 12, 46 Education. Knowledge of USA from television. (05/99)

Answer to Jane's question (in absentee)

Comment est-ce que tu imagines la vie d'un étudiant américain?

Karine: Donc, je vais essayer d'y répondre, mais tout d'abord, je tiens à te dire que ça sera assez difficile pour moi, parce que, déjà, je ne suis jamais allée en Amérique, donc je ne sais pas du tout comment ça se passe et pour moi la seule image que j'ai des universités américaines, c'est plutôt à travers le feuilleton Beverley Hills ((laughter)). Donc, je ne sais pas si ça, c'est vraiment une représentation, si c'est vraiment représentatif de la réalité. En plus, ici en France, donc, je ne suis pas, je ne suis pas à l'université, donc je ne sais pas non plus exactement comment ça se passe, ou c'est peut-être aussi un peu plus difficile pour moi de les comparer. Je sais qu'en Amérique, donc, le système universitaire est payant, donc c'est peut-être, l'encadrement est peut-être meilleur que dans une université française, peut-être un peu plus sérieux, mais que c'est peut-être aussi un moyen, disons, discriminatoire vis à vis des personnes qui pourraient pas payer les entrées dans certaines universités, et donc je pense dans ce sens un peu moins juste. Donc, en plus, donc, au niveau de l'encadrement, d'ailleurs j'ai lu un peu dans le site de Jane, donc, l'encadrement a l'air quand même assez développé, par exemple, un certain nombre de services pour les étudiants au niveau de l'orientation, les choses comme ça aussi peut être intéressant. Donc pour moi c'est

un peu difficile - j'arrive pas vraiment à m'imaginer, en fait. Je ne sais pas si ça répond vraiment à la question qui a été posée.....Voilà!

xxi) SEQUENCE 13 Towards a Global Classroom

Nivedita: My question is about the situation of drugs and all that. I wanted to ask if it was important that the dealers in the American version, is it important that the dealers should be arrested ? Because it is not the case in the French version.

Cassie: I think it's very important that the drug dealers should be caught in the American version, because we see drug dealers in America as a bad situation, and we always want to seek help from the police. We see the police as good people, that are on the good side and trying to help us out. And so drug dealers in America are usually the ones that cause all the poverty, and this endless cycle of helplessness: people we are in poverty, they tend to... it's hard to explain. If you see inner-city youth and families who live in the projects, or in the inner city, there's generally a lot of drugs that are being dealt around there and they get caught in endless cycles, and they think that the only way that they can get out is through drugs and most people who use and deal drugs end up in prison, and it's just an endless cycle of doing drugs - going to prison - doing drugs - going to prison. Violence usually is associated with drugs in America. A high crime rate. A lot of people do just about anything to get their fix, so we don't... it was very necessary in the American film that the drug dealers should be caught, because they're seen as bad people. And the fact that it is a Disney movie, and it's made for the family, it sends out that message if the drug dealers are dealt with appropriately.

Jack: And here if you know information about drug dealers, and it's found out that you know information about it and have withheld it from the police, you could be charged.

Nivedita : I think it's the same here, because of course we have drug dealers too in France, but the difference perhaps is that in the French version, the cop doesn't appear as a hero. Is it the case in all America movies ? Because we were trying to find American movie where the police makes a fool of itself, if it's not something like the "Police academy" on something like that. Is there a film where the police makes a fool of itself ? Does it exist or is the US cop still a hero for the American?

Cassie: I think so, that most American cops are good people. There are instances in a lot of the major big cities where there's corrupt policemen who will help the mafia or whatever, and there is a movie that exists, it doesn't make fun of the cops, it doesn't make them look stupid, but it's about corrupt cops, and I think the name of it is "Copland" I think, it's by Sylvester Stalone. He was in it, and I think it was about a year, a year and a half ago. I meant to see the movie but I know there were references to where this very small town sheriff was trying to resolve the problems of some corrupt police officers that were causing problems in his small town. So there are cops out there that are corrupt and that you can't trust, but for the most part Americans see police officers as someone you can trust, and someone you can go to help you out with your problems if there's a problem that exists.

Nivedita: I think that in France it's a bit different, because it's very easy to make fun of the police, it's always the "gendarme" who will do foolish things and who will never be able to catch the burglar. He's not a hero. It's a difference yes.

Lauren: Well, there are shows in the United States like "Cops", "The World's Wildest Police Videos", "The World's Wildest Police Chase", "Real Stories of the Highway Patrol...". All these are actual videos of police officers catching criminals, chasing cars, that kind of thing. So you'll only see the ones where they get the bad guy. You don't see the ones that get away. And I think that we do have a great

respect for the law in the United States. When people get stopped for a traffic violation, they always say to the police officer "Yes Sir, Yes Sir...", you know, you don't talk back to a police officer. And I was curious if it's the same way in France . ((Whole French group laugh))

Andry: In the French movie you have only three guys who have never done something... they're not heroes. And in the American movie you have three men, I mean normal guys, that help the police arresting drug dealers, and not just ridiculous drug dealers, they're dangerous and everything, and the police can't stop them.

Lauren: That's a motif though that's in so many movies.

Joanne: Yeah it's really common.

Lauren: In mean in every movie... a movie like "New Jack City", you have the entire story set around drug dealing, but in the end an old man shoots the drug dealer ,you know. And that's the resolution of the movie. So it's sort of like a cultural thing that ordinary people can take on, like a citizen's arrest sort of thing, people will have to get involved in the law too.

Joanne: Right, it teaches you to be a "good citizen" ((signs quotation marks)). But there's also among the young people, who are under age, and they wanna drink, and they wanna drive illegally, and stuff like that. There's also a lack of respect, and they will talk bad about the cops, and they'll make fun of them, but as soon as they see one they're like this ((she sits completely still)), just as soon as they do. Unless they're a drug dealer! They run!

Lauren: And they get on one of those television shows!

Nicolas: I wanted to say maybe that in France people want to find their own interests, whereas in America people want to find the interest of the whole society. In the French version, all the three men want to know is that they are in danger, and they don't want to hear that the drug dealers will be able to sell this drug afterwards. They just want to get out of their trouble, and they don't care about what will happen afterwards, if they are secure. And in the American version the three men are very concerned about their interests, but they also want to solve the problem and to make the drug dealers arrested, to prevent them from selling the drugs afterwards. So are all American people much more concerned about the interest of the whole society, or are they still individualistic as in France?

Joanne: I think it has to do with the income brackets that the three guys live in, in the American version. Because, yes, like I was saying before, we have to be responsible citizens. We feel more responsible with what happens to the rest of society. Whatever we do affects the rest of society. Anyway, in the American version, I think that they feel responsible, and they also have to do kinda ----- if they let the drugs get away and they're sold somewhere, then they feel bad and guilty about it, but it also makes them look like they're a part of it. They're accomplices.

Nicolas: Thank you

APPENDIX XXIV STUDENT ESSAYS ON CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

1) Friendship

a) Essay 1- Friends (definitions of friendship)

Depending on your culture, there are different ways of being friends. For example French people will be friends on the grounds of a mutual approval whereas Nukuoran people will state that such or such a person is his (her) friend. [...]. Another example can be given when you look at the difference between the conception of friendship in the French and American culture. For a French person, your friend will always give a hand when you're in need. This behaviour is just not the appropriate one in America, as it will undoubtedly be perceived as a violation of your private life. What's more, there's a certain limit which you must not cross when you ask something of an American friend, which is not the case in France: the bond works in such a way that it is possible to bother each other without any offence meant and definitely none taken. The gap between friends and family is much narrower here. What's more, in the American view, friendship is some sort of resource that you can give out. Hence you must be careful not to deplete it. If your friend is not kind to you, it's not worth keeping it as you're hence "losing" friends. Last but not least, being friends does not mean that you love each other. As a matter of fact, in love you cannot choose your loving partner. Moreover a couple can split and stay good friends. The difference is that love comes from the heart, friendship from the mind.

(Vivien and Benoît, December 1999)

b) Essay 2- Friends (different levels of friendship)

I was chatting with an American friend on the Internet yesterday, and I told her that I would have to write a paper about Cultural Misunderstandings between French and American people. She said that Americans usually thought that French people were rude and did not like Americans; so I answered that it was not true, that we only thought they were stupid. Of course I mentioned that I was just joking.

But I have to say that it reminds me about what Raymonde Carroll said in her book about the different behaviour French and American people have concerning friendship. Indeed, French people usually think that the Americans have no sense of friendship, or have superficial friendships. But Raymonde Carroll explained that an American person had different levels in his/her relationships, and that the sphere of mere friends and not close friends was probably the one a French person would meet; that's why we probably consider them as superficial friends. Moreover, the word "friend" is used much more loosely by American people than the word "ami" is used by French people. I remember a French cooker who had opened a restaurant in New York saying that relationships were easier in the US because he could say "my friend" to the cabdriver, but I think it's a cultural misunderstanding for the reason mentioned above: the fact that he can call him "my friend" does not mean that they are beginning a relationship.

What stroke me [sic] in the book was the differences between the ways an American and a French friend have to behave, which Raymonde Carroll explained. She said that if you tell a friend a problem, he/she would react in two opposite ways whether he/she is American or French. An American would wait for you to ask help, because she/ he would consider that offering help could be an insult or an offence meaning that you cannot cope with your own problem alone. It is totally nonsense for French people because we think a friend has to be supportive. Moreover, a French friend will not hesitate to say that you are wrong about something, while an American friend will try to go your way: for instance, my Internet friend always tells me that my English is perfect. A French friend with a better English than mine would probably say that I have things to improve and

tell me what. That's why, whenever I am in a bad mood, I try to chat with her. ☺
(French female student, 1998)

c) Essay 3 - Friends

How and why making remakes? The example of friendship.

Friendship is a very important relationship and feeling either in France or in the USA. Friends are people you choose to know and above all people who you've chosen and who know and understand you the best. But friends do not behave the same way in France and in the USA. In France, a friend is generally a friend forever whatever happens, and it is the person who will shake you up if you have problems or if you are in the wrong way. In a group of friends, when there are problems, like the arrival of the baby in "Trois Hommes et un Couffin", a leader is implicitly chosen to solve the problems, whereas the problem comes from another person of the group. For instance, in the film "Trois Hommes et un Couffin", it is Pierre who seems to be the one in charge of taking care of the baby whereas Jacques is the father. In America, such a situation and such an attitude towards the "owner" of the problem would be impossible. A person has problems, his friends can help him and would certainly help him but he is responsible. This person would feel hurt if he was told: "Let's relax, I take care of everything!" he would think that his friend is not a true friend, that his friend considers that he cannot solve his problems on his own and so on. In the remake "Three Men and a Baby", it is Jack who talks to the nanny and tells her to go. In the French one it is Pierre, not Jacques, who tells the "seconde maman" to go. An American would not have accepted that a friend acts as Pierre did.

An American friendship is based on equality and reciprocity between the friends because in general people have one good friend. Their surroundings are the most part made of more or less superficial relationships. In France, people have in general a group of friends in which each one is a friend of another one. This difference can be seen in comparing the original movie and its remake. In the French films, the party is quite small, a dozen of people. In the American one, the party is a huge one, with nearly all their surroundings [neighbours]; it is incredible that such a lot of people can be good friends.

(French male student, 1998)

d) Essay 4 - Friends

Dans la version américaine les personnages ont une soirée. La soirée a lieu au commencement du film. Les hommes sont très populaires et ils sont beaucoup d'amis dans leur appartement pendant la soirée. Ils parlent avec l'une et les autres et ils boivent beaucoup d'alcool. Les gens parlent très fort et ils disent de bons mots. Les hommes n'ont pas encore reçu le bébé.

Cependant, le rendez-vous dans le film français a lieu après que les hommes aient trouvé le bébé. Dans la version française, le dîner leur est servi. Il y a huit amis peut-être et ils parlent tranquillement. Ils boivent des vins et ils mangent ensemble. Les amis portent des vêtements élégants parce que l'occasion est très spéciale.

Je ne sais pas pourquoi la scène de la soirée change de la version américaine. Il y a des différences. Pourquoi dans la version américaine, la soirée est-elle au commencement du film? Dans la culture française il y a des soirées comme ça?

Je ne pense pas que les Américains auraient un grand dîner avec leurs amis comme les Français. Peut-être avec leurs supérieurs. Les hommes dans la version américaine ont beaucoup d'argent, quel est le milieu des hommes dans la version française? Ils ont de bons travail, et un grand appartement. Ils ont beaucoup de femmes aussi. Est-ce qu'il y a une raison pour ça? Je ne sais pas si les grandes

APPENDIX XXIV STUDENT ESSAYS PAGE 3

soirées sont populaires en France. Pourquoi est-ce que les films changent ces deux versions?

(American female student, 1997)

e) Essay 5- Parents and Friends.

France and the United States of America are two different countries and therefore they have very different cultures. We can see cultural differences by watching American remakes of French movies and the original versions. I will talk about "Trois Hommes et un Couffin" and its remake, "Three men and a baby". The first difference we can notice is the apartments. Indeed, in the French movie, the apartment is dark, old and there are also old paintings on the walls. In the American one the apartment is very clear, new and has flashy colors. Also at the beginning of the movies, we discover the three men in a party. The French party is very quiet and we can hear jazz in the background whereas the American party is very loud and there are a lot of persons invited. This is what strikes me most at the beginning of each movies. Then, when they have found the baby they have to buy diapers and in the French movie they have to find a store open on a Sunday, whereas in the American one they don't have this problem since supermarkets are open seven days a week.

After reading Raymonde Carroll's on cultural misunderstandings we can explain why some scenes are radically different. Firstly, the scene where they have to find somebody to take care of the girl. In the French movie Jacques goes to see his mother hoping she would accept. Raymonde Carroll says in her book that in France it is normal for grandparents to take care of their grandchildren and that they are very happy to do so. Jacques mother would have loved to take care Marie with her but she has a trip planned therefore she cannot. In the American movie Jack's mother simply refuses to take care of Mary. Raymonde Carroll explains this by saying that American parents, when they retire, have the right to rest and don't have to help their children. They are big enough to take care of themselves. Then, in the French movie, the three men try to hire a full-time nurse. Jacques is the one who talks first with Mme Rappon (I am not sure of the name). Afterwards Pierre is going to talk to the nurse. An American would have seen this as Pierre interfering in Jacques' business. But Raymonde Carroll explains that French wait their friends help them [expect their friends to help them] even if they were not asked to: an American wants his friend to help him if he asks him. This is the reason why this scene was changed in the American movie.

There is also the drug scene that has been changed in the American movie. I think that Americans cannot stand if the police is being cheated on, at least not in a movie rated for all. This is why in the American movie we see the three men working with the police and not against.

The last point I would like to develop is how children are raised in the two countries. In France we want children to be quiet, well behaved and that they don't disturb you when you are talking to someone else. In America, children are loud and not well behaved; this is how they are stereotyped in France. Raymonde Carroll says that it is true that American parents stop their conversation if their child is asking for something, whereas in France the child would be told to wait until the parents are done. She also says that in America if a child is quiet for a certain amount of time it is because he is ill.

(French male student, 1998)

f) Essay 6- Parents and Friends.

Remakes are made to make a foreigner movie fit better in the culture of the country. Therefore, there are often lots of differences between a movie and its remake, which are very interesting in a cultural point of view.

Let's focus on a particular movie, which is "Trois Hommes et un Couffin" and its remake, "Three Men and a Baby". There is first a huge difference at the beginning during the party. In America, any party has to be a great one, with many friends invited, a lot of light, whereas, in France we appreciate a lot of parties more intimistic, with few friends, but very close friends without a lot of light.

There is another difference when the father of the baby wants the grandmother to take care of his daughter. Both of the French and the American grandmothers refuse but not for the same reasons. The French one is to [sic] busy to take the responsibility, she is travelling, she is having a good time now that she is retired. The American one talks to his son and tells him that he has to take responsibility for the baby. This is the way children are raised in America; they have to be responsible and adults.

Americans are more puritans than the French; that is why when the two men are changing the baby, it seems more realistic in the French movie because we can see dirty diapers and all the details, whereas in the American version, everything is clean.

(French female student, 1999)

g) Essay 7- Parents.

After reading Raymonde Carroll's book on cultural misunderstandings, we can explain why some scenes in "Trois Hommes et un Couffin" and "Three Men and a Baby" are radically different. Firstly, the scene when they have to find somebody to take care of the girl. In the French movie, Jacques goes to see his mother hoping she would accept. Raymonde Carroll says in her book that in France it is normal for grandparents to take care of their grandchildren and that they are very happy to do so. Jacques' mother would have loved to take Marie with her but she has a trip planned, therefore she cannot. In the American movie, Jack's mother simply refuses to take care of Mary. Raymonde Carroll explains this by saying that American parents, when they retire, have the right to rest and don't have to help their children. They are big enough to take care of themselves.

(French male student, 1998)

h) Essay 8 – Parents.

Even if it 's only one point among others and this could seem a bit short, I think that it clearly reveals cultural misunderstandings that might occur between two countries.

It is evident that we doesn't [sic] bear the same approach to the family as they do. In the United States, children are the true responsibility of their parents, and no one would even think to try to unburden them, or have an argument about how they raise their children, as they deeply think that this is only the parents' choice. On the contrary in France (which is a rather older society) everyone feels responsible of the proper education of the newborn, because we feel that it is our sworn duty as member of our community.

In a word, even if we can't always explain them, cultural misunderstandings cannot be avoided as we refer to two historical background widely different and it's a fact that we just have to swallow up because there is no solution other than to admit it.

(French male student, 1999)

i) Essay 9 - Parents

Sometimes when watching a film, an American one, you just don't notice the difference at all comparing to our own way of life. But when you come to compare it with its French counterpart, the difference is truly obvious. At first sight you might think that both of them are designed for the same worldwide audience, but as you go through them carefully you can notice that they were both referring to cultural points of their own.

For example, in the American movie "Three Men and a Baby", the image of the mother is strongly different from the one in "Trois Hommes et un Couffin". In the first one, the mother looks strict and really unsensitive, she just don't even touch the baby with bare hands! Moreover, she clearly point out that she won't take care of the baby because it is not her responsibility to do so but the one of her son. On the other hand, in the latter, even if for scenario purposes she can't also take care of the baby, she must display a really good excuse as no one doubt of the evident commitment she has towards this baby. Which by the way she is very proud to show to her best friend.

(French male student, 1995)

j) Essay 10 – Parents.

Le film "Trois Hommes et un Couffin" et le remake américain "Three Men and a Baby", montrent beaucoup de différences culturelles entre les français et les américain. Un bon exemple et le mot de Sylvia; le changement du mot et du personnage qui ont lieu dans le remake. Le mot de Sylvia a dû changer et le personnage a dû devenir une étrangère pour être acceptable et raisonnable pour le public américain.

La Sylvia française a écrit, " Très cher Jacques, voici le fruit de nos amours, prends-en bien soin. Je pars pour six mois aux Etats-Unis. C'est une fille, elle s'appelle Marie. Bon courage, Sylvia". Elle n'a pas fait d'excuses, ni d'explications, en effet, le mot a l'air désinvolte. Avant elle partir aux Etats-Unis, elle a habité à Paris, comme les hommes. Je ne sais si cette femme est typique ou pas, ou si cette conduite et ce mot sont justifiés ou outrageux.

La Sylvia anglaise a écrit, "Dear Jack, here is our baby. I can't handle this now. I don't know where else to turn, some day I hope you can both forgive me. Her name is Mary. Sylvia." Le mot est plein de culpabilité et remords, et elle peut en espérer qu'un jour elle aura le pardon de Jack et Mary. C'est intéressant que la Sylvia dans "Three Men and a Baby" n'est pas américaine ou de New York comme les homes. Elle est anglaise. Peut-être sa conduite ne semble pas menaçante, et c'est plus compréhensible parce qu'elle est étrangère. Elle n'est pas américaine, donc sa conduite est plus éloignée de chez nous.

Le metteur en scène américain a dû changer le sens du mot pour plusieurs raisons. La société juge ses membres dans tous les groupes du peuple, mais il y a des petites et grandes différences. Une traduction exacte du mot français en l'anglais paraîtrait choquant aux américains. Sylvia semblerait sans cœur, sans souci et sans culpabilité et elle aurait trop d'audace pour une femme qui abandonnerait sa bébé. Un mot impenitent ne serait pas pardonné, et une mère n'abandonnerait jamais sa bébé, à moins qu'elle n'a pas d'alternative.

(American female student, 1998)

k) Essay 11 – Parents.

Ces deux films nous montrent le contact interculturel. Les hommes Français, les hommes américains et leurs relations familiales. Les deux groupes d'hommes étaient célibataires et " Play Boys" qui n'avaient pas fait la préparation d'avoir un

enfant, c'était venu par accident. Pourquoi les deux enfants sont arrivés comme du petit paquet? Et pourquoi les deux mères étaient refusent de garder les bébé?

La mère Américaine voulait aider son fils à mûrir en le forçant à faire face à ses responsabilités. Quand Jacques disait à sa mère "Mom, I am a screw-up". – "You were a screw-up, now you're a father."

La mère française vraiment je ne comprends pas exactement son avis. Ou elle s'en fout de l'enfant ou elle veut faire que son fils comprenne sa responsabilité. A mon avis la mère française dans un autre mot disait à son fils que pour avoir un enfant il faut attendre l'heure ou le bon moment. Mais pour la mère Américaine vous pouvaiez faire l'enfant si vous pouvez prendre vos responsabilités.

Dans "Trois Hommes et un Couffin" Pierre et Michel ont pensé que le bébé pleurait parce qu'elle avait faim. Dans le remake Peter et Michael ont pensé que le bébé voulait qu'on la porte. Il semble que les hommes français avaient une compréhension ou instinct meilleur des bébés. Les hommes Américaines [sic] n'avaient pas d'instinct paternel. Je pense que la conduite de Peter et Michael était très américaine. Dans l'ensemble, je pense que la société Américaine enseigne aux hommes qu'il n'est pas chic d'être paternel. Aux Etats-Unis il semble que les gens pensent que les bébés sont l'affaire des femmes seulement. Il ne semble pas que c'est un problème en France.

(American female student, 1997)

1) Essay 12 - Parents and Hollywood.

Hollywood is the biggest place of the movie industry. A huge amount of money allows people to create new films and "remakes". The difficulty for European films to succeed in the USA is by lots of cultural misunderstandings. People do not laugh at the same things, we don't have the same images of parents, life at home etc.

The kind of translation between "Trois Hommes et un Couffin" and "Three Men and a Baby" leads to numerous cultural differences in the films. Wealth has not the same effects on people, the behavior of grandmothers is very different. Even if in the films the two grandmothers do not want to take care of the baby, the reasons invoked translate the way our culture sees them. And above all lots of small elements, the story of the film represents the biggest change between a European film and the American version. The decision to insist on the drug dealers and the meeting between the new fathers and those dealers makes a new image of the father, which corresponds better to the image of the American parents. They must be some examples for their children, and then some heroes, which the film translates correctly. On the other hand, the French film insists more on the difficulty to be a father when we are not prepared to be one.

Another French film, "La Totale", insists on the difficulty to have a family when we are a secret agent, which leads to various funny situations, but the American remake avoids a little these problems into the family to insist on the realisations [actions, achievements] of the father. All these differences come from the vision of the relation between parents and children, and the role of parents towards children.

To conclude, all the differences, even if they can strongly change the original story and appear shocking [sic] for the public of the original film, are necessary. Making a movie exactly like the original one would lead to bad film, which would not respect some kind of cultural codes. These elements allow us to understand what is funny, or sad in a movie (for example the behaviour of the two grandmothers, or the behaviour of the fathers towards a nurse at the middle of the movies).

(French male student, 1999)

m) Essay 13 - Parents, Friends and Heroes.

One of the best ways to reveal cultural differences is to watch movies based on a culture and their remakes. Why do producers shoot remakes? In fact, it can be explained by situations that would not be seen the same way whether you are American or French: you may not react to the same situation or even miss jokes or funny scenes.

Raymonde Carroll has been studying the problem, and have noticed differences in many fields of investigation, such as children and parents, and relations between friends. French point of view on education is for example very different from the Americans' one. Whereas in France we are being taught how to behave "nicely" and respect the others, the Americans prefer to let the child develop his personality at the expense of a respectful behaviour with others. And differences do not fade out at the adult age, the way we treat our parents when we are blessed with children are different too: French people count on their parents' help, whereas the American grandparents' help is not as much requested. This is why in "Three men and a baby", the answer of the grandmother is not "I would like to, it's a shame I am busy but "You have to manage on your own".

Other differences can be seen in relationships with friends. Whereas the French tend to think they can help a friend even if he has not asked for it, the Americans will wait until he asks for assistance, even if they seem more respectful to each other. Though the American relationships seem more superficial than the French ones. Maybe the tensions and struggles between French friends can be explained by the fact that they know each other more intimately [intimately] and thus require more from each other. In "Trois hommes et un couffin", the relationship between the protagonists seem much more conflictual, but at the same time deeper than in "Three men and a baby". Such differences between cultures forced Colline Serreau into changing the scenario of her movie and even made her quit the shooting.

[...] There is also a detail that appears in "Cultural Misunderstandings" that is the relationship between children and their grandparents. In France grandparents often take care of the children. For example, they keep them during summer holidays while their parents carry on working. It is not the case in America where grandparents do not have a major role to play in the children education. In the film, when the one who has the baby ask his mother to take care of him, she refuses because she thinks he is responsible for his own acts. In the French film, she would accept but she has planned to go on a trip.

Finally the hero status is completely different whether you are French or American. In the American film, they are rich, good-looking, they have a good job, they have plenty of friends and a huge flat. In the French film, that is not so emphasized, they are normal people and not brilliant heroes. The social status is far more important in America than in France.

(French male student, 1999)

n) Essay 14- Parents and heroes.

American people act in a super-hero way. Indeed, when the three men has to give the drug back to the drug-dealers, in the American movie they get the dealers arrested and the policemen are very friendly with them. In the French movie, the policemen don't seem very friendly at all and they even seem kind of stupid. Moreover, the drug is given back to the dealers but they are not arrested.

In American movies, every lobbie has to be represented. Here we can see the feminist lobbie when the woman says that women are not here to do what men don't like doing. Moreover, in this scene we can see that it is not in the American mentality to have its child being taken care of by a total stranger

because a man asks a friend of his to look after the baby, whereas in the French version, they ask a nanny to do it.

Then, at the end, when the mother comes because she is very tired. In the French movie she doesn't ask if the men can keep the baby, she waits until they offer to do so and she accepts, whereas in American it is a bad thing to do something like that, therefore the woman asks for them to take care of the baby.

Thanks to all these changes, a movie can have more success in a country than he would have had without any change. However, the remake is often not as good as the original.

(French female student, 1998)

o) Essay 15 - Parents, Heroes and Authority.

When a French film (for example) is successful at its release in France, then the director often tries to adapt it to the American market. So he shoots a totally new film with a different casting, a different place etc. but based on the same scenario. However, some details are changed to for the American culture perfectly. That is what we are going to study by comparing "Trois Hommes et un Couffin" and its remake, "Three Men and a Baby".

First we can see that the main characters have a totally different attitude. In the American version they have to be heroes. This difference is obvious when they have to give the dealers the drugs back. In the French version, they use a quite simple way so as not to be seen by the policemen who spies them: Michael hides the drug in the baby's nappy, then he just has to change the baby in a park and he puts the nappy in the dustbin where the dealer can take it. It is a realistic and efficient way to exchange drug. In the American version they choose to catch the drug dealers and to deliver them to police. So there is a little cascade [stunt] in the lifts so as to make it more spectacular. The film is more focused on action than on characters. Besides the drug dealers look more dangerous in the American version: they have guns and belong to a gang. Life is dangerous in America!

Then there are some others aspects: the relationship with the police. In French film, policemen often look ridiculous: they never get it, they are stupid, narrow-minded. It is the opposite in the US where they look friendly (the detective smiles at the baby) and where they risk their life to protect citizens. There is also a detail that appears in "Cultural Misunderstandings" that is the relationship between children and their grandparents: in France grandparents often take care of the children. For example, they keep them during the summer holidays while their parents carry on working. It is not the case in America, where the grandparents do not have a major role to play in the children education. In the film, when the one who has the baby ask his mother to take care of him [sic], she refuses because she thinks he is responsible for his own acts. In the French film, she would accept but she has planned to go on a trip.

Finally, the hero status is completely different whether you are French or American. In the American film, they are rich, good-looking, they have a good job, they have plenty of friends and a huge flat. In the French film, that is not so emphasized, they are normal people and not brilliant heroes. The social status is far more important in America than in France.

(French male student, 1999)

p) Essay 16 – Parents, heroes and authority.

Well, I don't remember seeing a film and its remake in a row in order to notice the differences and cultural misunderstandings, so the only good example I have in mind is "Trois Hommes et un Couffin" and "Three Men and a Baby". The opening sequence of both films is emblematic of the cultural gap between Europe and the US. In the French film, you see a party in a very dark place, where people drink

and smoke. This must be too gloomy for an American, and the scene has been totally remade: the American party is a lot of people, a lot of light and guys who look like they just swallowed amphetamines. The American has to be healthy (we see Tom Selleck jogging), not too interested in sex (a part which is far less explicit and important in the American film) and of course self-reliant. It seems that an American mother wouldn't even help her son in the tricky situation the three men face. In the French film, the scenarist had to send the mother overseas to make sure she doesn't interfere. Compared with the Americans, the French look very childish, as they always try to get someone to take responsibilities.

However, the American movie goes too far when it shows the three men defeating drug dealers in a very spectacular way. It seems that Americans can't admit that people who break the law are not all sadistic killers, and that a drug dealer can be a nice guy. On the other hand, they see policemen as people you can trust and you need to help ("Here you are, I give you two drug dealers and a videotape, thank-you, goodbye."), which means they are independent as long as they don't meet authority.

I might sound like a basic "US go home" French guy, but that's because I was sick to see what they had done with this film (and many others) just to make it meet their own value system.

(French male student, 1999)

q) Essay 17 - Friends, authority, cinematic conventions.

French movies that have success are quite often "remaked" by Americans. I will try to find out some differences between the French version and the American one. To do this, I will take the example of "Three Men and a Baby" and "Trois Hommes et un Couffin".

At the beginning of the two movies, we can notice some major differences between a fest in France and a fest [party, interference from German] in America. In France, the room where the fest takes place is quite dark and people are listening to jazz music and speaking quietly to each other, whereas the room in the USA is bigger and much lighter, and people are all excited and are speaking loudly. I think that the mood in the French one is much more intimate.

What is more, when the three men have become [got, received, interference from German *bekommen*] the baby, there is a scene where they have to clean it because it has relieved itself. Whereas in the French movie we see very well that the baby's clothes are dirty, which seems logical, the baby's clothes of the American remake are very clean. What could be interpreted as a director's mistake by the French watchers is in fact a voluntary act of the American director whose purpose is to avoid making offence to the American public. We can remark that, in general, movies for a large public [literal translation of *grand public*] are much more rude in France than in the USA.

Another major difference between the two films is the scene where the main characters must give back the drugs they have become [got, received, interference from German *bekommen*] accidentally. On the one hand, the French decide to trade directly with the dealer and give him the drug secretly in a square in order to avoid involving the police, that is often laughed at in France. On the other hand, the American characters prefer warning the police and arresting the dealers, so that they look like heroes.

In conclusion, differences between the original movie and the American remake are mainly due to cultural differences and I think also that some scenes are a little "exaggerated" in the American version to make it more commercial.

(French male student, 1999)

r) Essay 18 - Authority

American people have a very different attitude towards the law than French people. Indeed, the French often forget to abide by the law- even honest and respectable citizens – although Americans are much more obedient. For instance, in France, a majority of people would help a friend by not telling the truth if the offence they have witnessed is not too serious, instead of letting their friend take his responsibilities - as many Americans would do.

That cultural difference can also be noticed in some movies, where police officers have very different roles. It is particularly obvious when one compares the French movie "Trois Hommes et un Couffin" and its American remake. In the French version, the police officer doesn't seem very clever. It's only after having searched a bin that he realises the dealers have left with the drug. And moreover, in the French movie, the men who've got the baby prefer not to do the job in cooperation with the police. Although in the American movie, the police is involved since the beginning and the three protagonists cannot think for a single second of letting the drug dealers leave with the drug. No, they feel that a spectacular arrest is their duty, even if they are just people as normal as you and me.

The last behaviour- the American one- would seem somewhat childish and unrealistic to most of the French. French people would generally prefer laughing at their policemen, which is more realistic because we have all met some who were not much clever.

(French male student, 1999)

s) Essay 19 – Humour/stereotypes.

Why do Americans laugh when watching American remakes of French films whereas these appear to be incredibly boring to French? These are a few questions among many other that we cannot avoid to ask to oneself while reading e-mail of our partners from East University.

Actually what make us so different, up to the extent that we do not seem to have anything in common? Raymonde Carroll tries to give a hand to the unachievable task of explanation of cultural misunderstandings. She makes a cultural analysis on relationships between French and Americans sorting out recurrent points which could explain cultural misunderstandings.

What is more, beyond all those funny examples that everyone have to feed the argument- "These funny Americans, fat and loving base-ball", "Those rude French and Europeans with their funny cars"the striking point that even though the two of us, France and America, are considered as Western countries with all that implies, we do not have a natural understanding of each other. Consequently one should not be surprised by many conflicts in the world and by the fact that we cannot solve all of them. How to interfere, as Western people, in conflicts taking place in Middle East in Africa or even in Asia? Our attempt to solve others problem via the UNO and other organizations is- in a pessimistic point of view- to fail...

Am I too pessimistic or have I expressed loudly what everyone think without saying it? I hope being wrong. Non-western countries are to have more influence, in the future, over the world.

By way of conclusion, after having experienced some meetings and discussions, I began to understand why do Americans laugh while watching "Three Men and a Coffin" [sic] and moreover why do I laugh while watching "Trois Hommes et un Couffin".

(French male student, 1999)

t) Essay 20 (extract) – Humour. Neuf Mois/Nine Months.

Pour le deuxième mois, la seule scène qui met en parallèle exacte les deux films "Neuf Mois" et "Nine Months" est la visite chez le gynécologue, et dans les deux films, les deux scènes sont très semblables. Samuel et Mathilde, le couple français vont chez le gynécologue pour une vérification de la grossesse de Mathilde.

Maintenant je vous décrirai ce qui se passe, selon moi. La scène commence avec Samuel et Mathilde dans le bureau du docteur, et il leur parle de la responsabilité, et de la difficulté d'être enceinte. Le docteur est très préoccupé avec la santé de Samuel et il lui demande s'il va bien ou mal. Il lui demande aussi s'ils sont mariés. Le docteur ne fait pas attention à Mathilde, et quand il a besoin d'une date pour calculer la date de conception, Mathilde doit lever le doigt. Après ça, il leur donne une date erronée de la conception. La caméra fait converger le visage de Samuel qui a beaucoup de problèmes – il pense qu'il n'est pas le père! Il annonce ceci et il se met debout, et ensuite le docteur aussi se met debout. Mathilde est très fâchée et leur dit, "Asseyez-vous!" Elle dit au docteur de calculer, encore la date. Le docteur le fait et cette fois il rit et leur dit qu'il avait fait une erreur. Il leur montre le tableau et leur dit qu'un côté est pour les singes et l'autre pour les femmes. Il leur donne la mauvaise date et la couple est heureuse [sic]. Mais le docteur va mal, parce qu'il pense qu'il est très stupide. Il hurle à sa secrétaire et se frappe le visage. Ensuite, il demande à Mathilde de se déshabiller pour l'examen et à Samuel de partir. Quand le docteur se promène à travers le bureau Samuel et Mathilde sont très surpris de ses bottes de cow-boy, qui sont bizarres pour un docteur à porter. Il se trompe de porte parce qu'il est nerveux et les balais de concierge tombent du placard. Il marmotte des apologies et puis il tapote le lit d'examen, et tout d'un coup le lit s'effondre. Ça, c'est la fin de la scène.

Il est important de comprendre pourquoi la scène est amusante pour les français et pourquoi le directeur américain ne l'a pas traduit exactement de français en anglais. A mon avis, le clé [sic] pour cette scène est le docteur et la construction du personnage.

Dans le film français, le docteur est un homme noir ridicule. Presque toutes les choses qu'il fait, dit et porte montrent qu'il est ni expérimenté, ni normal. Il est d'un pays d'Afrique, qui est, probablement, francophone et peu développé, et le docteur lui-même est assez excentrique. IL demande à Samuel comment il va, il n'utilise pas de technologie et il fait une grande erreur quand il donne la date de conception pour les singes au lieu des femmes. Il essaye d'être professionnel, mais il fait des erreurs continuellement. Il y a de comédie "slapstick", ou physique quelquefois où le docteur a fait lui-même l'idiot. Le docteur aime les autres cultures et il adopte des vêtements et des phrases américains ou espagnols. Particulièrement, les bottes de cow-boy sont amusantes car elles sont peu approprié [sic] pour un docteur, et cela montre une admiration pour la culture et la mode américaine. Il sait à peine maîtriser ses émotions et actions. Bien sûr, toutes ces choses bizarres font que le docteur ne paraît pas fiable, voilà une raison pour laquelle il est amusant [.....]

(Lily, 1997)

u) Essay 21 – Humour. Neuf Mois/Nine Months.

C'était la première visite chez le gynécologue, mais ce docteur était un peu étrange. Le docteur était venu de Russie, et c'était la première fois qu'il assisterait à un accouchement d'un humain. Au début de la visite, il essayait de prédire quand l'enfant naîtrait. Il a posé des questions à Rebecca et Sam et il a mis l'information dans l'ordinateur. Mais il avait un problème avec la date de la conception – Sam n'était pas chez eux, il était à un congrès de la psychologie. Sam s'est mis en colère,

Rebecca s'est énervée, et le docteur a commencé à babiller. Sam a décidé de partir et il s'est mis debout. Rebecca était très fâchée. "Asseyez-vous !" elle leur a commandé. Elle a dit au docteur de trouver le problème. Il a eu beaucoup de frustration. Finalement, il a découvert le problème- il avait utilisé le logiciel pour les singes! Il a déterminé la date correcte pour la naissance de l'enfant. [...]

Une grande différence entre le film américain et le film français est que le docteur du film américain est russe et le docteur du film français est africain. La société américaine et la société française regardent les deux cultures différemment. Aux-Etats-Unis, les stéréotypes des Russes se sont formés pendant les guerres mondiales et la guerre froide. Alors, les américains se moquent des russes, et c'est acceptable. Les russes ne sont pas les amis, et c'est acceptable. Les russes ne sont pas les amis des américains. Dans le film, le docteur a dit qu'en Russie, il avait travaillé seulement avec des singes et des rats. Cette phrase se moque de l'économie russe.

La relation entre les Américains blancs et les Américains africains a été très influencé par l'esclavage. L'esclavage est honteux pour la culture américaine. Aux Etats-Unis, encore il y a une hostilité entre les blancs et les noirs. Un exemple [sic] est l'assaut de Rodney King par les policiers de Los Angeles en 1994 et les émeutes suivants[sic]. La société cherche un compromis dans la lutte contre le racisme, pour vivre en paix, mais il y a beaucoup de difficultés. Alors quand les blancs se moquent des noirs, ce n'est pas acceptable
(Karma, 1997)

v) Essay 23 - Differing perspectives on readings.

We all agree about the difference between American and French houses. It is true that the outside is totally different over the Atlantic ocean.

But there is many points which are doubtfull:

- all the examples seem to be taken in the high society, since we can read "the maid asks him....", "in the sixteenth arondissement in Paris"...So the author can't be really objective since she doesn't search in the other levels.
- the behaviour in front of guests is different in France since the guests are not the same. We think that before inviting someone in your house, you wait for a certain confident relationship. On the contrary in America they invite someone more easily than in France. But the examples she gives are always linked with high society.
- The behavior of French strollers is not the same. In America you can let your curtains open and be sure that nobody will watch in your house. It is not the case in France since we are very curious, so we know that we have to close our shutters if we want to have a real privacy.

Those points are those which shocked us during our first reading of the study. But the main thing for us is the fact that the study is not really objective since it concern only a part of American and French society. We don't know what happens in ghettos.....

(Julie and Jean-Loup, 1999)

w) Essay 23 - Differing perspectives on readings.

Although there are interesting remarks in Raymonde Carroll's "Cultural Misunderstandings", I must say that I do not comply with her description of how the French raise their children. She says that French children are always very quiet and that they are never allowed to get dirty. Well that certainly is not the memory I have from my childhood. I remember running around all the time, not being able to remain seated for an entire meal when my parents were eating with friends,

and sometimes getting very dirty! At first, I thought maybe I had been raised in a very bizarre way, so I asked my friends how they remembered their childhood. They had a childhood much similar to mine than to that described by Carroll. Another thing they told me was that they played a lot with other children, and not only with their brothers and sisters as suggested in the book. However, I must say that the French people I have talked to did play with their brothers and sisters. In terms of playmates this is where the difference between my French and my American friends lay. Most of them even claimed they hated them, and that they were "so stupid". Apart from that I do not believe that American and French children are very different in their relationship with friends and in their way of playing.

However, I do not believe this to be true when they interact with the "grown up" world. American children or at least the ones I have seen, are not scared of adults, they treat them as their friend and have an almost equal relationship with them. In France, I believe that children are much more afraid of grown-ups. Adults use a different way of speaking when they talk to children than when they talk among themselves. I believe that is why Carroll thought French children were so quiet, maybe they were just scared of her.
(French female student, 1999)

x) Essay 24, Differing perspectives on readings – the universal.

French and American people are not so different. They have a lot of things in common. We share the same way of living. We do enjoy the same activities, such as watching sport on TV or enjoying having a drink with friends at night... We also have the same way of getting married and founding families. Our common moral comes from Christianity and the Occidental philosophers. Both people are frightened about death and find answers in the religious message. We also have to earn our living in a liberal society. [...]

We have many aspects of our lives in common but there are still those "little differences" as Vincent Vega, alias John Travolta says in Pulp Fiction. He explains his friend Samuel Lee Jackson that what amazed him were those "little differences". He explains about French people eating French fries with mayonnaise-, which is most of the time wrong, German people do. He also explains that it is possible to buy beer in McDonald's in Paris, which would be unbelievable in the USA where drinking beer in a public place is not allowed under 21 years old. Another difference that we often forget about is illustrated that way:

- "How do they call the quarter-pounder-with-cheese in France?" asks Travolta to Jackson.
- "They don't call it quarter-pounder-with-cheese?"
- "They got the metric system! They call it Royale-with-cheese!"
- "Royal Cheese" answers Jackson, giving the correct way of saying it, after a mistake of Travolta.

The last and emblematic subject is the Big Mac, that we call "le Big Mac". A few days ago I read in McDonald's in Paris the equivalent of: "We are American, but we are made in France. "McDonald's have even become "MacDo pour les intimes", which show that even a worldwide product such as McDonald's has to adapt to be appreciated in France.

To conclude, I would like to point out the fact that there are often more differences among people from the same country but coming from different social origins than among people sharing the same education, context of living and- if I dare the word- social class but not the country. I may be wrong.
(French male student, 1998)

y) Essay 25 - Stereotypes and decentering

Why do French people often think that Americans are stupid, big and just watch TV all day long?

Moreover, why when you talk with American people, do they think that France is only Paris and wine?

When I was in the United States, during three consecutive stays in a family who live near New York, the first thing they asked me was "How far is your town from Paris?" But, day after day, they started to be more open-minded and we had a great time.

I must admit that I was also narrow-minded, but I discovered the American way of life during this journey, and by some aspects it is like we think it is, but by many aspects it is totally different. American people really try to understand you and your culture if you want to make some efforts.

Indeed, we have a great discussion on the death sentence. The parents were convinced that it was a good thing but they listen to me when I told them that we abolished it, and they really tried to understand the cultural reasons, even though they think death sentence was necessary to punish killers of children for example.

Besides, to take the example of the recent debate on the American election system, I think a lot of French people do not understand because they do not know anything about the history of the USA. In fact, Americans do not want the constitution changed because for them it is a symbol of the independence. They had to fight against English people who were like their cousins, and the constitution is the result of this war so they want to see it conserved.

To talk about remakes, we can see in these films a lot of cultural differences and you can understand some of the "cultural misunderstandings".

In fact, when French people watch the American movie, very often they don't laugh. I think it's because the systems of values are very different. Indeed, to take the example of the drug in "Trois Hommes et un Couffin" and its remake, the difference between the two reactions is due essentially to culture. In France we are more likely to hide things from the police whereas Americans are more legalists and would prefer to call the cops instead of having problems with them.

Moreover, in USA, you cannot have on the screen the same things as you have in France. For example nudity is banned – nudity of children for example – and that is due to the Puritanism, which is not a characteristic of French society. Perhaps it can sound stupid to a lot of people in France but the code of behaving is different. It is the same for example with Asian films. When "L'empire des Sens" came to France, it was a real scandal for French people, it was shocking.

To conclude, I think that cultural misunderstandings are essentially due to the fact that people do not know the history, the habit of the others and due to the fact that they do not want to open their mind to another culture. Maybe I am an optimist but I think that by discussing and meeting people who have another culture, we could improve the comprehension between people.

(French male student, 1999)