

EXERCISES

CHAPTER 6

Exercise #6-5

Website: <http://witscience.org/>

Exercise #6-6

Website: <http://abchomeopathy.com/homeopathy.htm>

CHAPTER 8

Exercise #8-5

Ravi: Lot's of excitement around our family these days – my cousin Anil is getting married.

Winnie: Your cousin Anil -- but I didn't know she was seeing someone.

Ravi: She's not. In fact, she hasn't met her future husband yet. He's coming from India.

Winnie: Don't tell me -- an arranged marriage. I'd never stand for such a thing!

Ravi: Why not? What's so wrong with it?

Winnie: I think that in this day and age a person has the right to choose their own husband or wife.

Ravi: But Anil doesn't object – she's actually very happy.

Winnie: The fact that's she's happy doesn't mean that her rights haven't been violated. I guess the family did a good job talking her into it. But aren't these arranged marriages really just economic arrangements between families? It doesn't seem right that an individual's future should be decided by the state of her family's finances.

Ravi: *That's true of some arranged marriages, but lots of them aren't like that. My uncle and aunt care a lot about Anil and are doing what they think is best for her future and happiness.*

Winnie: *But how does Anil know that she'll get along with this guy? I don't see how you can build a successful marriage when you don't even know the person you'll be spending the rest of your life with.*

Ravi: *The two families know their own children very well. They've taken into consideration aspects like personality, interests, upbringing, background, social equality, and culture in making the choice. Seems to me that these are important factors in a marriage and they're usually left to chance in the typical North American marriage.*

Winnie: *Well I for one want to be able to marry the person I fall in love with.*

Ravi: *That's just a romantic fantasy. What's called love is usually just infatuation and physical attraction. That's not a very good basis for a marriage. And anyway, two people can learn to love each other over time based on mutual respect.*

Winnie: *I don't know...*

Ravi: *Arranged marriage is a part of our cultural tradition. It seems to me that we should have the right to hold onto traditions. This is, after all, a multicultural society.*

Winnie: *But I worry that these kinds of practices will just separate different groups even more and prevent them from integrating into the larger society.*

Exercise #8-6

Article on condom distribution from “Statement on Public Schools’ Condom Distribution,” *Origins* 22: no. 32 (Jan. 21, 1993). pp.553-56.

Read to near bottom of p. 58, ending just before subheading “Practical Dimensions”

https://books.google.it/books?id=XocwyhNJxJEC&pg=PA58&lpg=PA58&dq=Statement+on+Public+Schools'+Condom+Distribution&source=bl&ots=KTWjudGkOw&sig=_FsBB3SqJyfpqB2mXIRtMenDF-Y&hl=en&ei=PnUiTITkLJH8_Abq1dyUBQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=3&ved=0CBsQ6AEwA#v=onepage&q=Statement%20on%20Public%20Schools'%20Condom%20Distribution&f=false

CHAPTER 9

Exercise #9-4

If any of the following debates is unavailable, substitute with another debate from the debate website:

a) Are same sex schools good for education?

<http://idebate.org/debatabase/debates/education/house-believes-single-sex-schools-are-good-education>

b) Should animal testing be banned?

<http://idebate.org/debatabase/debates/animal-research-debate/house-would-ban-animal-testing>

c) Should music containing lyrics that glorify violent and criminal lifestyles be banned?

<http://idebate.org/debatabase/debates/freespeechdebate/house-would-ban-music-containing-lyrics-glorify-violent-and-criminal-activity>

d) Should prostitution be legalized?

<http://idebate.org/debatabase/debates/society/house-would-legalise-prostitution>

CHAPTER 10

Exercise #10-5

a) How Does Gay Marriage Affect Me? Ten Arguments Against Same Sex Marriage

Read from beginning of 5th paragraph beginning “How does homosexual marriage affect me?”

<http://americanpowerblog.blogspot.com/2009/04/how-does-gay-marriage-affect-me.html>

b) Against Restaurant Smoking Bans

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/10/19/AR2006101901275.html>

Exercise #10-6

Should illegal drugs be decriminalized?

<http://www.thirteen.org/closetohome/viewpoints/html/decrim.html>

Exercise #10-8

End the Gun Epidemic in America

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/05/opinion/end-the-gun-epidemic-in-america.html?action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=opinion-c-col-top-region®ion=opinion-c-col-top-region&WT.nav=opinion-c-col-top-region&r=1>

CHAPTER 11

Exercise #11-2

“US man fights for his right to download – but supreme court won’t hear appeal”

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/us-news-blog/2012/may/22/supreme-court-appeal-music-downloader>

Exercise #11-3

A town hall meeting called to discuss what action to take regarding prostitution on local streets.

Ms. Green: It’s about time that something was done about the prostitution problem in our neighborhood. What’s going on is disgraceful and action is long overdue.

Mr. Black: It’s obvious what to do – call the cops.

Ms. Blue: That seems pretty drastic. And anyway, the police have got their hands full dealing with real crime and usually don’t bother with street solicitation. I think we’ll have to come up with some other strategies for dealing with the problem ...

Ms. Brown: Now just a minute, folks. Problem is your word. The only problem here is that you so-called nice people don’t want to let us ply our trade and make a living.

Ms. Green: Your trade. I suppose you’re going to give us the line that you are a “sex trade worker.” Yeah, right. Why don’t you just call it what it is.

Ms. Brown: You privileged folks – you have no idea what it’s like to be poor and on the streets. You can sit at home with your feet up and the remote for your big screen TV in your hand and sermonize while someone else supports you. You don’t have to go out there and struggle for a living.

Mr. White: Now just a moment you two. This is no way to conduct a civilized discussion.

Ms. Green: *You keep out of it. And why is this “person” allowed to speak anyway? She’s not a member of our community.*

Mr. White: *We’re really getting off track here. I think we should try to lay out the various possible courses of action and what the main arguments are for each.*

Mr. Black: *Everybody knows that along with prostitution come drugs, violence, and organized crime and that all neighborhoods where there’s prostitution deteriorate and become slums.*

Ms. Blue: *The study conducted at the Department of Criminology of a local university to ascertain the feasibility of curtailing sexual commerce in residential areas confirmed their hypothesis that the efficacy of regulatory measures undertaken in various municipalities varies proportionally with commitment of residents of the aforementioned locales minus the resistance of the vendors in question.*

Ms. Brown: *Well that was clear as mud.*

Mr. White: *To follow up on my suggestion – I see the possible courses of action as these: to call in the police to enforce the law, to start citizens’ patrols to try to discourage prostitutes and clients from being in our area; or to do nothing.*

Ms. Green: *I think the idea of having every resident in the neighborhood out at night patrolling the streets is ridiculous. I certainly wouldn’t want my kids engaging in that sort of activity. And besides, that’s the job of the police.*

Mr. White: *That wasn’t my suggestion, Ms. Green. Please try to listen more carefully and not misrepresent people’s positions.*

Ms. Green: *Well!*

Ms. Blue: *It seems to me that the underlying concern of all the residents, whatever their views may be about prostitution in general, is not to have these activities taking place near our homes and near our schools where children will be exposed to them.*

Mr. White: I think we need to recognize that prostitution is not going to go away. But maybe, if we work together, we can come up with a strategy that deals with our concerns as residents and parents for the protection of our families.

Exercise #11-4

Political debate:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5xUy2inkGHO&feature=related>

CHAPTER 12

Exercise #12-8

Spectator article by James Delingpole: “Meet the man who has exposed the great climate change con trick:

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/the-magazine/features/3755623/meet-the-man-who-has-exposed-the-great-climate-change-con-trick.html>

Huffington Post article by Alex Higgins: “The Spectator Is Hot for Global Warming Denial”

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/alex-higgins/the-spectator-is-hot-fo b 230873.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/alex-higgins/the-spectator-is-hot-for-global-warming-denial-2012-03-23)

Exercise #12-9

Debates on Climate Change

Hour-long video version of a debate:

<http://intelligencesquaredus.org/debates/past-debates/item/559-global-warming-is-not-a-crisis>

Edited audio version of the *Intelligence*² debate:

AUDIO: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=9082151>

CHAPTER 13

Exercise # 13-2 (a)

Abstract: Examined the long-term effects of repeated exposure to violent and nonviolent pornography on males' laboratory aggression against women and their self-reported likelihood of raping. 42 university students were randomly assigned to the sexually violent, sexually nonviolent or control exposure conditions. Those assigned to the sexually violent or sexually nonviolent conditions were exposed over a 4-wk period to 10 stimuli including feature-length films and written and pictorial depictions, whereas controls were not exposed to any stimuli. Following the end of the exposure phase, subjects participated in what they believed to be a totally unrelated experiment in which aggression was assessed within a Buss paradigm [measure of human physical aggression]. Exposure to the violent or nonviolent pornographic stimuli did not affect laboratory aggression, but likelihood of raping ratings predicted laboratory aggression. ("Repeated exposure to violent and nonviolent pornography: Likelihood of raping ratings and laboratory aggression against women." Malamuth, N.M. and Ceniti, J. *Aggressive Be-hav.* 1986 12: 129-137.)

Exercise #13-2 (b)

Abstract: Examined whether erotica is harmful and incites sexual crimes by interviewing 227 male sex offenders and 50 control subjects from the community in Canada about purchase of erotic magazines and videos and attendance at erotic

movies. Erotica use was not a pertinent factor in offenders' sex offenses nor to their legal situation. Results do not support the conclusion of the Meese Commission (1986) that there is a causal association of sexual violence and use of violent pornography. (Pornography and sexual offenses. **Langevin, R. et. al.** *Annal. Sex Res.*.. 1988 1: 335- 362.)

Exercise#13-2 (c)

Abstract: Reviews the evidence regarding the postulated causal link between pornography and rape, using data on the incidence of rape in 4 societies (Denmark, Sweden, Germany, and the US) where pornography is widely available. While earlier research found no evidence of a causal link between pornography and rape, a new generation of behavioral scientists has attempted to prove such a connection, especially for aggressive pornography. Aggregate data on rape and other violent or sexual offenses in these 4 countries seem to exclude the possibility that the availability of pornography has any detrimental effects in the form of increased sexual violence.

(*International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*, Vol 14 (1-2), 1991, 47-64.

doi.org/10.1016/0160-2527(91)90024-H)

Exercise #13-5

Science and Online Dating

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/18/technology/internet/18shortcuts.html?ref=science>

Exercise #13-7

How Money Messes With Your Mind

Before doing a more thorough review, indicate the most obvious concern one should have about this study.

http://www.nytimes.com/adx/bin/adx_click.html?type=cookie&pos=Position1B

CHAPTER 14

Exercise #14-1

Painting:

<http://www.artchive.com/artchive/M/monet/adresse.jpg.html>

Exercise #14-2

The Sounds of Silence

<http://sglyrics.myrmid.com/sounds.htm#track01>

Exercise #14-4

4'33"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zY7UK-6aaNA>

Exercise #14-5

Ad

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/laplaza/2008/04/mexico-reconque.html>

CHAPTER 15

Exercise #15-6

Ms. Smith, the principal of Shaheen's school and Mr. Najib, Shaheen's father, are having a conference.

Ms. Smith: We seem to be having a problem in terms of Shaheen's participation in physical education class.

Mr. Najib: What sort of problem?

Ms. Smith: Shaheen refuses to participate.

Mr. Najib: Refuse isn't quite the right word – she isn't allowed to take part in physical education classes.

Ms. Smith: Why not? Is she ill? Does she have a doctor's certificate?

Mr. Najib: No. I don't allow her to take part.

Ms. Smith: Don't allow? Why not?

Mr. Najib: Because it is not appropriate for a girl in our culture. It is unseemly for girls to dress in the manner you require or to be in physical contact with boys. And the teacher is a man, after all.

Ms. Smith: But physical education is a requirement of the curriculum. It's very important for children to develop their physical skills, become more fit, and learn an active life style. It's an essential part of their education.

Mr. Najib: That may be true for the children from this culture, but Shaheen will have no need of such things as a good Muslim wife and mother.

Ms. Smith: But she is living in this society in which women have equal rights and in which men and women intermingle in the community. Our schools have an obligation to educate young people for this society and its values.

Mr. Najib: And I have a right to raise my child in accordance with our religion and traditions.

CHAPTER 16

Exercise #16-2

Henry Ford on reincarnation (section in italics in middle of page beginning “I adopted the theory of reincarnation ...”):

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/natasha-dern/do-you-believe-in-past-life-566665.html>

Exercise #16-3

“Positively Misguided: The Myths & Mistakes of the Positive Thinking Movement”

by Steve Salerno

<http://www.skeptic.com/eskeptic/09-04-15#feature>

Exercise #16-4 (a)

The Stephen Michalak Encounter at Falcon Lake

<http://www.ufoevidence.org/cases/case376.htm>

Exercise #16-4 (b)

Arguments regarding alleged government cover-ups of UFO sightings and alien contact:

<http://www.ufoevidence.org/documents/doc98.htm>

<http://www.ufoevidence.org/documents/doc2027.htm>

Exercise #16-4 (c)

Jimmy Carter's UFO sighting report:

<http://www.ufoevidence.org/cases/case294.htm>

Exercise #16-4 (d)

Section entitled "The Roper Poll " from article "Abduction by Aliens or Sleep

Paralysis?" by Susan Blackmore

[http://www.csicop.org/si/show/abduction by aliens or sleep paralysis](http://www.csicop.org/si/show/abduction_by.aliens_or_sleep_paralysis)

Exercise #16-5

"The Baloney Detection Kit" by Michael Shermer:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUB4j0n2UDU&eurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww>

[w%2Eske](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUB4j0n2UDU&eurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww)