

# Translate and Critique. (T/C)

*Translate and Critique* is a hermeneutic method for you to build your own understanding of a topic. Hermeneutics means that you uncover meaning between the text and your self.

## Process and Parts:

- 1) **Fragment:** You will either find, or be assigned, a fragment of writing or a primary source usually less than a page which has been written by the author or philosopher whom we are studying. This will be the starting point of your T/C. Place this at the end of your work.
- 2) **Biopic:** The second component will be an interesting (and hopefully relevant) story from about the author's life. Don't do the standard "She was born, worked, had 4 kids, and died" biopic. Find something like when the time Thales fell down the well.
- 3) **Historical Background:** one paragraph about the time period. I.e. the historical context of the author / philosopher and their work. Try to find something about the intellectual or philosophical currents of the time like the Arian Heresy during Boethius's life.
- 4) **Transliteration:** Restate the fragment in YOUR OWN WORDS. This can be open format – any medium ... a painting, an essay, musical performance... If you choose a format other than an essay then you will submit a written explanation of your 'open-format' submission.
- 5) **Critique:** An analysis / discussion of the fragment.

*"Critique is a method of disciplined, systematic analysis of a written or oral discourse. Although critique is commonly understood as fault finding and negative judgment, it can also involve merit recognition, and in the philosophical tradition it also means a methodical practice of doubt."*

Your critique must discuss an analysis of your fragment / reading. This discussion should be the longest part of your T/C. This is where you question what the author was saying. This is where you assess how much you agree or disagree with their assertions or thinking. This is where you tell us what you think. Remember to use direct and/or direct quotes from your source and always, always provide citations.

- 6) **Self-evaluation:** A short reflection on what you feel you did well and what you might improve upon the next time. Your self-analysis must be balanced between your strengths and weaknesses.
- 7) **Provide a bibliography/References/Works Cited** (depending on your selected citation style).