



“Translation” writing

Duration: Eight hour-long sessions, schedule to be determined
Location: Tutor’s Zoom link & Google docs

Course Description: In the "translation" writing class, we won't be translating from one language to another ourselves; instead, we'll be using "translation" exercises to inspire our writing. For example, we'll examine multiple versions of a poem translated into English by several different translators, and analyze which ones are effective and why. This class will be a fun way to show that writing is a series of decisions the writer makes in order to create a certain effect for readers.

Course Objectives: By the end of the course, students will:

- Have a heightened appreciation for and skill in accessing their creative thinking
 - Approach texts they may have previously deemed inaccessible or intimidating
 - Work with various texts and writing assignments that advance and complicate their creativity
 - Learn about the process of invention, writing, and revision in a positive environment
 - Learn to work meaningfully in a small group setting
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Calendar: This calendar, like life, is subject to change, and may be modified by individual tutors to fit the needs of the particular class

Week 1: Writing as Translation

- Students will be introduced to the notion of writing as an act of translating one’s inner life onto the page.
- Students will read a Shakespeare sonnet, deeply and carefully unpacking its language and meanings with the tutor’s guidance.
- Students will read a modern-day translation of Shakespeare’s poem.
- Students will begin composing a creative translation of their own.

Week 2: Translating Shakespeare

- Students will complete a fun translation exercise as a warm-up.
- Students will read and engage with a quote to stimulate creative and analytical thinking.
- Students will read another Shakespeare sonnet, deeply and carefully unpacking its language and meanings with the tutor’s guidance.
- Students will read a modern-day translation of Shakespeare’s poem.
- Students will begin composing a creative translation of their own.

Week 3: Translation across Languages



- Students will read and engage with a quote to stimulate creative and analytical thinking.
- Students will read and richly discuss an ancient poem translated into English.
- Students will compose a fun writing “experiment” that yields surprising results.

Week 4: The Boast

- Students will read and engage with a quote to stimulate creative and analytical thinking.
- Students will read different translations of an ancient text and evaluate each translation’s linguistic nuances.
- Students will write their own “boasts” based on the themes of the in-class reading.

Week 5: Style

- Students will read and engage with a quote to stimulate creative and analytical thinking.
- Students will study various translations of single texts to determine the critical importance of a writer’s language decisions.
- Students will write their own “takedown of an enemy” based on the themes of the in-class readings.

Week 6: Gilgamesh

- Students will read and engage with a quote to stimulate creative and analytical thinking.
- Students will learn about, and read excerpts of, ancient epic poetry to discern their themes and stylistic decisions.
- Students will conduct a fun creative writing “experiment” to show the power of collaboration.

Week 7: The Power of Diction

- Students will read and engage with a quote to stimulate creative and analytical thinking.
- Students will continue to discuss the power of diction, or word choice, by studying literary models.
- Students will compose a creative writing “experiment” that involves dynamically translating their thoughts on the page.

Week 8: Emoji Poetry

- Students will learn about the growing genre of emoji poetry.
- Students will read and engage with published poems that translate a series of emoji messages into English in creative and dynamic ways.
- Students will create an elaborate emoji message together, then translate that message individually into poems of their own using written English.
- Students will reflect on the class and the creative work they’ve produced.