



Skills

Mediation

... is about communicating ideas from one language to another.
 ... does not mean translating!

Read the assignment carefully to find out about the following:

- **addressee, situational context** (*who are you writing the text for?*)
- **target text** (*what kind of text do you have to produce?*)
- **purpose** (*what relevant aspects/content should you focus on?*)
- **register and style** (*formal/informal?*)

In order to mediate successfully, you should

- **rearrange** the information as they are needed for the given purpose, do not necessarily follow the structure of the original text
 (=> scan the text for its structure and relevant information, use colours, annotations, symbols etc.)
- **paraphrase**, that means rewrite someone else's ideas in your own words instead of translating them word for word,
 (=> this often means expressing these ideas in a simpler manner)
- **explain** the cultural background / meaning of German terms if necessary (e. g. Abitur, freiwilliges soziales Jahr, Berufsschule...),
 (=> however, do not add completely new information)
- **remain neutral**, that means leave out your opinion

Checklist

- ✓ Concentrate on relevant details that are required by the task.
- ✓ Use a register and style that is appropriate to the addressee(s) and the situation described in the task.
- ✓ Use indirect speech if necessary.
- ✓ Explain the cultural background of German terms if necessary.
- ✓ Do not translate word for word.
- ✓ Do not follow the structure of the original text. Rearrange the information as you need it to fulfil the task.
- ✓ Do not add any information.
- ✓ Leave out your own opinion.



MEDIATION – PRACTICE CORNER

Paraphrasing and explaining

3 a) Paraphrase the following statements from the text in English. → $\triangle 115/4$

1. Um die eigenen Werte zu verstehen, ist die Auseinandersetzung mit denen anderer sehr wichtig.
2. Die Fähigkeit, differenziert wahrzunehmen, ...
3. ..., wenn du dich mit Menschen anderer Herkunft in einer anderen Sprache auseinandersetzt.

b) Very often idiomatic expressions cannot be translated directly. Explain the meaning of these idioms from an advice page for volunteers and check if there is an English equivalent.

Du solltest ...

1. ... nicht aus einer Mücke einen Elefanten machen.
2. ... nicht vergessen: Andere Länder, andere Sitten.
3. ... nicht alles auf eine Karte setzen.
4. ... den Rat befolgen: Übung macht den Meister.
5. ... daran denken: Morgenstund hat Gold im Mund.

c) Think about additional information non-Germans might need to understand the words and expressions in bold type.

Bewerber für dieses Programm ...

1. ... brauchen keine **Eins** in Englisch.
2. ... besuchen das **Gymnasium**, die **Realschule** oder die **Berufsschule**.
3. ... können auch erst nach dem **Abitur** ihre Bewerbung einreichen.
4. ... können entweder ein **Freiwilliges Soziales Jahr** oder ein **Freiwilliges Ökologisches Jahr** bei uns absolvieren.

Register and style

4 a) What kind of register would you use in the following situations?

1. an e-mail in which you apply for an overseas placement during the summer
2. an e-mail to your host family thanking them for letting you stay with them

b) Read through the two texts and rewrite them to make the register and style more appropriate.

Dear Ms Thomas,
I want to apply for a placement with your organisation in the summer cos I really liked all the stuff I read on your website. Your programme sounds pretty cool and I think I'm exactly the kind of person you need. Why? Well, I'm sixteen years old and go to school in Germany. I enjoy hanging out with people and as I like making things, I guess I'd be pretty good at building stuff. You'll find a copy of my CV attached together with my personal statement. I'll be around most of the summer as I don't really have much planned yet. Looking forward to hearing from you soon.
Best,

Hi guys!
I hope you're all well! Once again I'd like to express my thanks for your kindness when I was in the US. I had a truly wonderful time – you were all extremely considerate and helpful. To be honest, returning home again has proved to be quite a culture shock – I was not aware that this was going to be the case. I imagine that the coming weeks will be very challenging as I try to adapt to life in Germany again. Please send my warmest regards to the class and let me know how things are with you.
Yours sincerely,

Extra-challenge

5 a) Explain what the following German dishes and drinks are to an English-speaking visitor. The following phrases will help you: *is similar to • is a little like • can be compared to • there isn't an equivalent in English.*

Maultaschen • Quark • Apfelstrudel • Käsespätzle • Sauerbraten • Apfelschorle • Sauerkraut • Schwarzbrot • Rote Grütze • Bratwurst • Kartoffelpuffer • Stollen • Dampfnudel • Semmelknödel