

1. Write a persuasion that convinces by means of sense and sensibility. In other words, you should use logical argument and emotional appeal to persuade the reader either to agree with some claim or to do something. The following model will give you a sense of length (*about 500 words*) and approach, but you must come up with your own idea for a persuasion. (50%)

"I love traveling. I've been to a lot of places, and I'm proud to say that I started traveling at a very young age. When I was a child, I visited many countries in Southeast Asia, mostly with my grandfather who, at that time, owned a textile factory in Vietnam. We'd roam Ho-Chi-Ming City in a pedicab, buy bread from the "baguette lady" with long, braided hair; we'd have a ride on the elephants while sipping coconut water in Chiang Mai; we'd take pictures of each other mimicking the smiles of the Buddhas in Angkor Wat. But even as a child, I remembered not only the bright colors and vivid images of this tropical wonderland but also dark shades of poverty and some valuable lessons I learnt from it and from my grandfather. Grandpa was a man of great ambition, courage, and creativity, and at the same time, kind, warm, and sympathetic. He often told me how important it is to always perceive others' needs and offer timely help. Once, a worker in his factory came to his office, crying and begging for money to cure her diseased mother. Grandpa immediately agreed to support her until her mother's recovery. Moreover, he often visited the old lady in hospital and found out that the worker's son had dropped out of school due to poverty. Seeing this, he established a fund for workers' children, covering most of their tuition fees. "A successful man is a man of use to others," Grandpa always said. Unlike most entrepreneurs who put profit first, he cared more about his contribution to society. On our trips, he often reminded me to open my mind and observe subtle things. "What makes travel meaningful is that we can see and feel different lives instead of focusing on our own. It makes us sensitive to others' needs and therefore knowing how to be of use to them." I've always kept grandpa's words in mind. Even though he passed away last year and now I'm old enough to travel alone, whenever I think of these words, I feel as if he is by my side. Since I graduated from high school, I volunteered in Cambodia and Vietnam, building houses and teaching English to children in remote villages. We worked 6 hours a day in extremely hot and humid weather; our accommodation was shabby; our food, far from tasty. It might sound horrible, but I have to say, I had a lot of fun! To many people, traveling is about having fun and relaxation, but to me, it's another story. I choose to be of use to others. I believe, if my grandfather were still alive, he would be very proud of me."

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2. Invent a story about a fictional translation or interpretation case that illustrates the complexities of the ethics of translation and the role a translator should or could play in the world. Below is a model that will give you a sense of length (*about 500 words*) and approach, but you must invent your own case (and unlike the model, your story does not have to have a happy ending). 50%

A British environmentalist translator living in Brazil is called by an agency with an ongoing job, translating into English everything published in Brazil on smoking. Every week a packet of photocopies arrives, almost all of it based on scientific research in Brazil and elsewhere on the harmful effects of smoking. As a fervent nonsmoker and opponent of the tobacco industry, she is pleased to be translating these texts. The texts are also relatively easy, many of them are slight variations on a single press release, and the money is good. Gradually, however, ethical doubts begin to gnaw at her. Who in the English speaking world is so interested in what Brazilians write about smoking, and so rich, as to pay her all this money to have it all in English? And surely this person or group isn't just interested in Brazil; surely she is one of hundreds of translators around the world, one in each country, hired by a local agency to translate everything written on smoking in their countries as well. Who could the ultimate user be but one of the large tobacco companies in the United States or England? She starts paying closer attention, and by reading between the lines is finally able to determine that the commission comes from the biggest tobacco company in the world, one responsible for the destruction of thousands of acres of the Amazon rain forest for the drying of tobacco leaves, a neocolonialist enterprise that has disrupted not only the ecosystem of the rain forest but the economy of the Amazonian Indians. Gradually her ethical doubts turn into distaste for her work: she is essentially helping the largest tobacco company in the world spy on the opposition. One week, then, a 60-page booklet arrives, written by a Brazilian anti-tobacco group. It is well researched and wonderfully written; it is a joy to translate. It ends on a plea for support, detailing several ways in which the tobacco industry has undermined its work. Suddenly she realizes what she has to do: she has to give her translation of this booklet, paid for by the tobacco industry, to this group that is fighting this rather lucrative source of her income. Not only would that help them disseminate their research to the English-speaking world; sales of the booklet would provide them with a much-needed source of funding. So she calls the group, and sets up a meeting; worried about the legality of her action, she also asks their lawyer to determine what if any legal risks she and they might be taking, and be present at the meeting. When at the meeting she is reassured that it is perfectly legal for her to give them the translation, she hands over the diskette and leaves. No legal action is ever taken against her, but she never gets another packet in the mail from the agency; that source of income dries up entirely, and instantly. It seems likely that the tobacco company has a spy in the anti-tobacco group, because she is cut off immediately, not months later when the booklet is published in English.