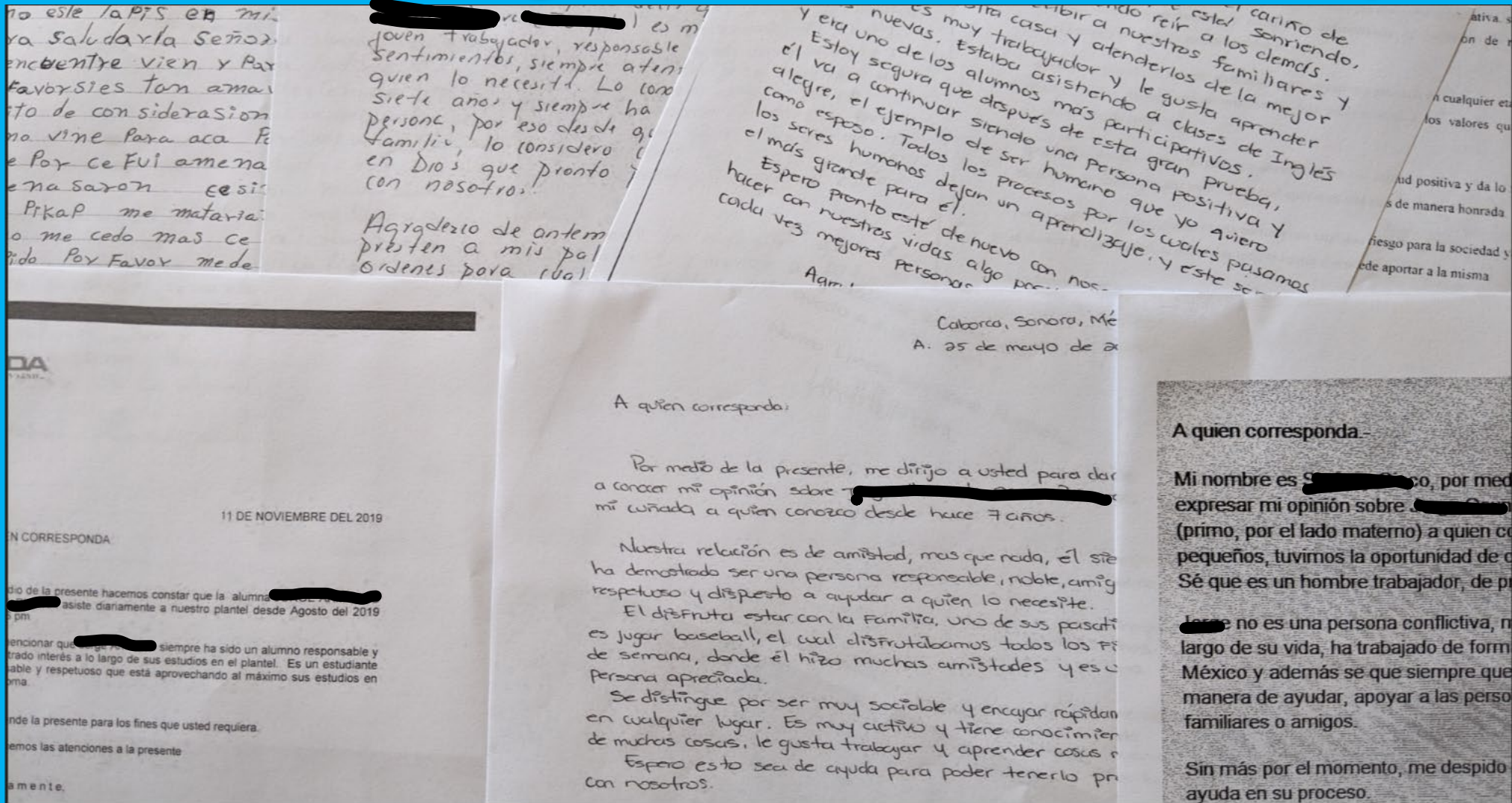




*Marcia's power surges were becoming severe*

# Normalizing Letters: Translation Tips



Marcia\_Resler@fd.org, Arizona Federal Public Defender Office Staff Interpreter

“He came to my office at 4.”



consultorio



despacho



bufete

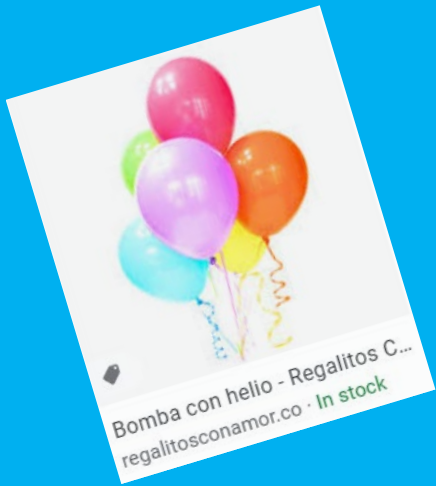
POP QUIZ

# 1. The importance of the context



## Bomba La Galera cerrada tras derrame de combustible

Por Redaccion EL Guardian - 30 julio, 2015



Bomba con helio - Regalitos C...  
regalitosconamor.co · In stock



# Objectives

# 1. The importance of the context



Objectives

## 2. How inseparable language and culture are



Objectives

### 3. The different types of translations

Exoticism

Cultural  
borrowing

Calque

Comm.  
translation

Cultural  
transplantation

**Objectives**

# 4. Be able to apply new insights to translations and interpretations

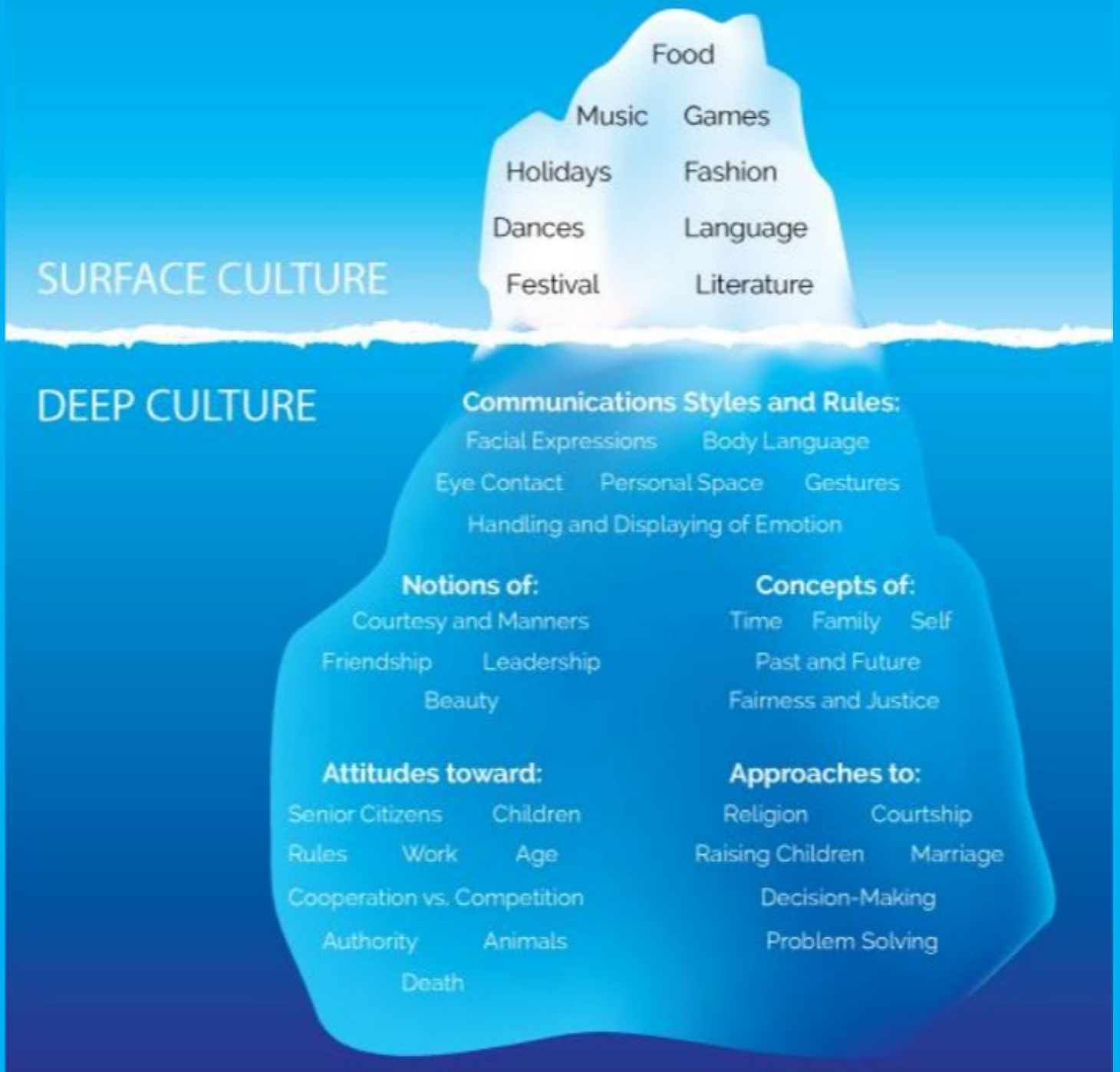
**RANCHO**



**Objectives**



# Culture is...



# Translation is NOT...



Without hair on your tongue

Without mincing words ✓

# Normalization is ...



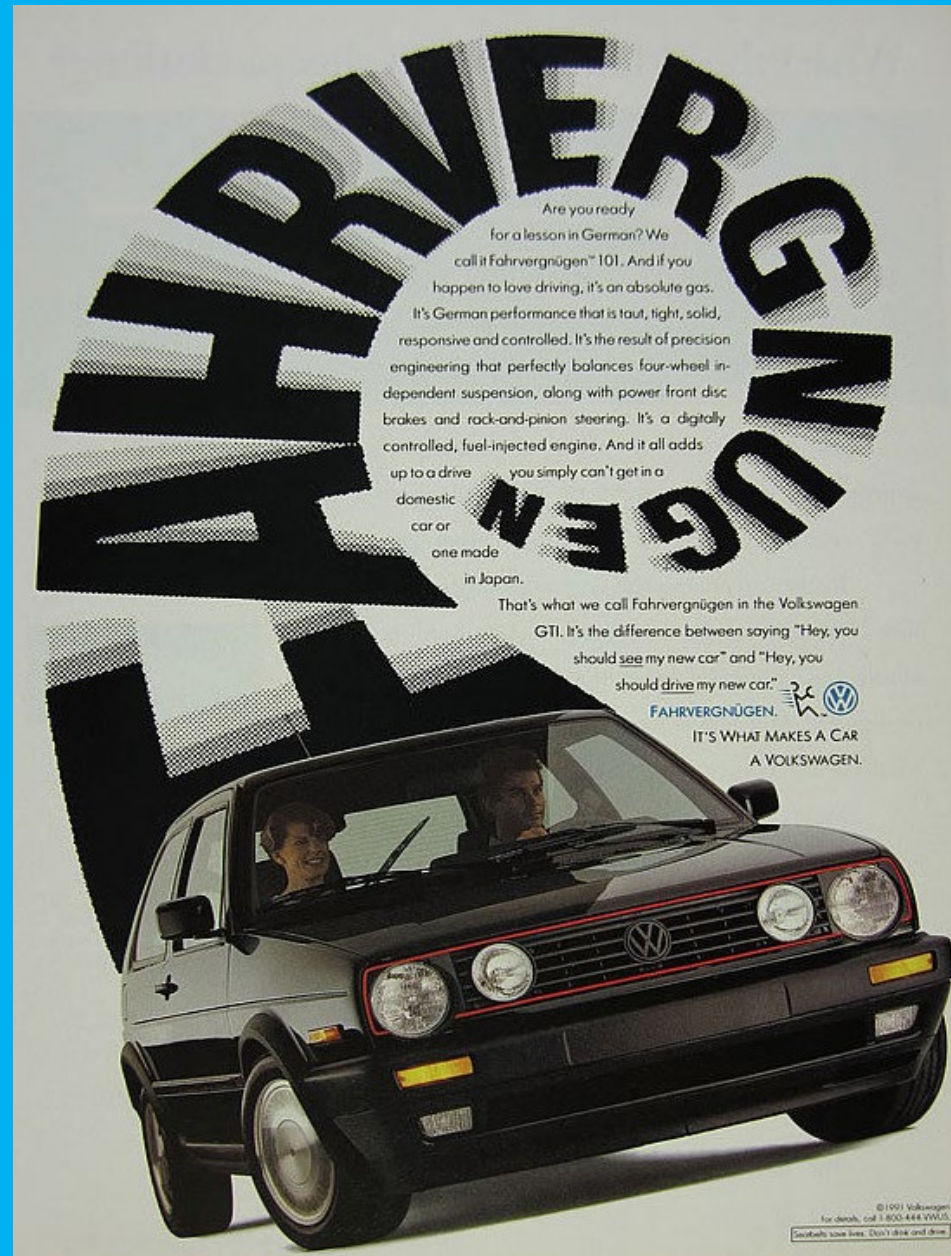
In two shakes of a  
lamb's tail



En menos de lo que  
canta un gallo


# Exoticism

## FAHVERGNÜGEN



Are you ready for a lesson in German? We call it Fahrvergnügen™ 101. And if you happen to love driving, it's an absolute gas. It's German performance that is taut, tight, solid, responsive and controlled. It's the result of precision engineering that perfectly balances four-wheel independent suspension, along with power front disc brakes and rack-and-pinion steering. It's a digitally controlled, fuel-injected engine. And it all adds up to a drive you simply can't get in a domestic car or one made in Japan.

That's what we call Fahrvergnügen in the Volkswagen GTI. It's the difference between saying "Hey, you should see my new car" and "Hey, you should drive my new car."

FAHVERGNÜGEN.   
IT'S WHAT MAKES A CAR  
A VOLKSWAGEN.

© 1991 Volkswagen  
For details, call 1-800-444-VW.U.S.  
Safely, look first. Don't drink and drive.

# Translation Types

# Cultural Borrowing

Comadre, compadre. Sombrero. Hombre.  
Software. Punk. Résumé. Kindergarten.



**Definition of sombrero**  
: an often high-crowned hat of felt or straw with a very wide brim worn especially in the Southwest and Mexico

**Illustration of sombrero**

An illustration of a man with a mustache wearing a traditional Mexican sombrero with a high crown and wide brim. He is wearing a red shirt.

Translation Types

# Calque

**You won't die this year!**



**This is a calvary!**

## Translation Types

# Communicative Translation

**The best a man can get= Lo mejor para el hombre**

**Listen to your lips= Confía en tus labios**



**Translation Types**

# Cultural Transplantation



Translation Types



# Audience

Judges

Magistrate Judges

Commissioners

AUSAs

DAs

Probation Officers



Translation Type?

Tomo este lapis en mis manos  
Para saludarla Señora Duesa Desiando  
Se encuentre bien y Para pedirle  
Por favor si es tan amable tenga un  
pocito de consideracion con migo Por ce  
No vine para aca Por mi voluntad  
vine Por ce fui amenasado me  
amenasaron ce sino manejava  
ese pickup me matarian mi familia  
y no me cedo mas ce a serlo Por ce  
Le pido Por favor me de poco tiempo  
Por ce yo soy el ce mantego amis Padres  
ellos estan maliores yo soy el ce lo saca  
adelante Por favor si puede dedarme  
acion en Arizona Para ce vengan  
a ver me se lo agradeceria mucho

GREASE IS THE WORD

**SUMMARY TRANSLATION OF  
SIX 2019 PAYSTUBS**



**[SIC]**

This document was translated by the undersigned federally certified interpreter, Marcia Resler, to the best of her skill and ability for the Office of the Federal Public Defender in Phoenix, Arizona. Spelling, punctuation and grammar added/adapted for clarity. *Italics* denotes original text.

*Marcia Resler*

September 22, 2020

**SUMMARY TRANSLATION OF  
DEATH CERTIFICATE**

# Practical Application

- ❖ Context
- ❖ Culture
- ❖ Type of translation
- ❖ Audience



# Practical Application

Yo soy [REDACTED] para la STA  
[REDACTED] ESTA ES UNA  
carta de perdon por habella  
tocado y por habella manojado  
y le puego me perdome perbome  
haberme enamorado de eds  
para yo sentir discuso de  
puego por haber hechocosas  
que no debia hacer GRACIAS  
la STA PRONDO yo le agradece  
te que me yeada ne atenta  
morte [REDACTED]  
GRACIAS STA

I am ???, for Ms. ???.

This an apology letter for having touched her and for having fondled her. And I beg you to forgive me. Forgive me for falling in love with you guys, so that I can feel at peace. I beg you.

For having done things I shouldn't have done.

Thanks, so long. I will be grateful to you for forgiving me. Sincerely, ???.

Thanks, Miss.

# Practical Application

HOLA don [REDACTED] que sepa que  
Lo extrañamos de maciado y quiero  
pedirle que me perdona por que el ultimo  
dia que nos vimos no me porte muy  
bien con usted no este enojado con  
mi. Lo por favor yo lo quiero mucho  
como un padre que no tube sabe  
extraño mucho por que ya nadie  
pelea con mi. ni me dice tutis frutis  
ni que me apares a vilma de los pica Piedra  
con mi chongo y ya pasaron dos sabados  
sin echarnos perfumes de usted. sabe  
que lo vamos a estar esperando para  
cuando regrese usted le estoy pidiendo  
mucho adios que no sea de maciado  
tiempo siempre que me acuerdo  
de usted lloro de tristesa por que  
no lo veo lo quiero mucho de fecito

Ateptamente : La conseTida de

DTA : Para [REDACTED]

con cariña se le quiere

de maciado :

[REDACTED]

Hello, don (\*) [REDACTED].

I want you to know that we really, really miss you. And I want you to forgive me because the last day we saw each other I wasn't very nice to you; don't be mad at me, please. I love you like the father I never have.

You know? I really miss you because no one argues with me, or calls me *Tutis Frutis* or tells me that I look like Wilma from the Flintstones anymore with my hair in a bun, and Saturdays go by without us having a drink on you. Know that we'll be waiting for your return. I'm fervently praying to God so that your time won't be too much.

Every time I remember you I get weepy because I don't get to see you. I really love you, boss.

Sincerely,

DTA (*Desarrollos Tecnificados Agricolas*) [Tecnified Agricultural Developments]'s favorite

To: don [REDACTED]

with affection (you're truly loved):

[REDACTED]

(\*) a Spanish nobleman or gentleman —used as a title prefixed to the Christian name

# Practical Application

Señor Juez, Señor Fiscal, señor Licenciado (1)  
una disculpa, ante todo por mi falta al estado  
de Arizona y a ustedes principalmente  
quiero expresar lo que siento en este  
momento donde me encuentro por el  
motivo nadie te oye caso y nadie te  
entende pero me siento muy triste  
y tengo muchas ganas de llorar y  
embesillo la verdad porque no  
estoy con mi familia por eso le suplico  
nueva mente que meden su atención, por  
favor, ocupa su apoyo de usted señor  
Fiscal y usted mi señoría presente  
usted también licenciado pero les  
escribo estas palabras porque la  
verdad me desconozco en este momento  
por eso les pido atenta mente su  
apoyo para que meden su mano  
aber si podemos llegar a una alhuda  
de mi parte considero - fallado y  
e fallado y asumo mi responsabilidad y la  
verdad les quiero decir algo deje, a mi  
familia desamparada por el motivo de  
dark's lo mejor ya que sinsera mente me  
me equiblado y les e dado lo peor tristesa  
de subida al no estar con ellos lo que lo  
mejor me e dado cuenta que donde o se  
vive hoy que estar con mi familia

Your Honor, Government Counsel, Defense Counsel, (1)  
Before anything else, an apology for my offense to the State of Arizona and  
mainly to you all.

I want to put into words what I'm feeling right now where I'm at because no one  
pays attention to you and no one understands you. I'm feeling very sad and I  
just want to cry and sometimes I do cry, honestly, because I'm not with my  
family.

This is why I'm begging you again to pay attention to me, please. I need your  
support, Government Counsel and yours, Your Honor, and yours also, Defense  
Counsel, but I'm writing these lines because, truth be told, I don't recognize  
myself at this time.

This is why I'm respectfully asking for your support, for you all to give me a  
lending hand to see if we can get me some help.

I myself believe that I let [you] down and failed [you] and I accept my  
responsibility and truth be told I'd like to tell you something: I left my family  
helpless and alone because I wanted to give them the best, I made an honest  
mistake and I've given them the worst sadness of their lives instead by not  
being by their side. Because I've come to realize that the best thing in life is to  
be with my family.

# Practical Application

eso es lo mas importante que hay en la vida estar con mi familia la verdad que lo mas importante es estar con mi familia  
Me gustaria que supudieran otorgarme el perdon señor Fiscal, señoría Jamas regresaria jamas de mi vida ami familia por eso les pido que me perdonen x que me saquen de aqui lla que es un tormento la verdad no me considero una persona de peligro para la sociedad mas no me considero este tipo de persona de esta clase con todo respeto les prometo y les juro que jamas en mi vida vuelvo a darles ningun disgusto y de mi cuenta como que no volvera jamas en la vida muchas gracias por su atencion y su comprension  
ATT, muchas gracias por escuchar me, señor Fiscal, señoría autoridades  
Gracias por escuchar y disculpe mi atrevimiento me despido con sus permisos  
ATT

That's the most important thing there's in life: to be with my family. (2)  
Honestly, the most important thing is to be with my family.  
I'd like it if you could grant me a pardon, Government Counsel, Your Honor.  
I'd never return, never ever in my life. For my family, that's why I'm asking you all to forgive me and to get me out of here because, honestly, it's torturous to be here. I don't consider myself a danger to the community, I really don't consider myself that type of person, of that kind.  
Very respectfully I promise and swear to you all that never in my life will I ever give you all a reason to be upset at me. As for me, I'll never in my life come back again.  
Thank you very much for your attention and understanding.  
Sincerely, thank you very much for listening to me, Government Counsel, gentlemen in authority.  
Thank you for listening and forgive me for taking this liberty. I extend my regards, excuse me.  
Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]



# Practical Application

A QUIEN CORRESPONDA:

POR MEDIO DE ESTE ESCRITO QUIERO HABLAR UN POCO SOBRE QUIEN ES PARA MI JOHNNY,

YO TENGO MAS DE 6 AÑOS DE CONOCER A QUIEN CARIÑOSAMENTE LLAMO JOHNNY, EL ES UNA PERSONA LINDA, NOBLE, AMABLE, CARIÑOSA, BUENA ONDA, BONDADOSA, EL ES UN MUCHACHO ALEGRE Y CON UN GRAN SENTIDO DEL HUMOR, EL REUNE TODAS LAS CUALIDADES QUE YO CONSIDERO QUE UNA BUENA PERSONA DEBE DE TENER, PUEDO DECIR CON SINCERIDAD QUE EL NO ES MALO. EL ES TAN BUENO QUE DECIDI CONCEDERLE EL SACRAMENTO DEL BAUTISMO DE MI HIJA.

TAN BUENA Y LINDA PERSONA LO CONSIDERO QUE LO ELEGI COMO MI COMPADRE, PUES LE EH CONFIADO LO MAS VALIOSO QUE TENGO QUE ES MI HIJA, LO ELEGI POR SER NOBLE Y DE BUEN CORAZON, PUES UNO SABE QUE UN PADRINO VIENE SIENDO COMO UN SEGUNDO PADRE O BIEN UN PILAR MAS DE APOYO Y EJEMPLO SI A UNO LE PASA ALGO. MI HIJA TIENE 5 AÑOS Y QUIERE MUCHO A SU NINO JORGITO, PUES SIEMPRE A ESTADO AHÍ EN CADA FECHA IMPORTANTE SUS CUMPLE AÑOS SUS PRIMEROS PASOS, LAS NAVIDADES.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BY MEANS OF THIS LETTER I'D LIKE TO TALK A BIT ABOUT WHO JOHNNY IS FOR ME.

FOR MORE THAN 6 YEARS I'VE KNOWN WHOM I AFFECTIONATELY CALL JOHNNY. HE'S A NICE, NOBLE, KIND, AFFECTIONATE, COOL AND SOFT-HEARTED PERSON. HE'S A CHEERFUL YOUNG MAN WHO HAS A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR. HE MEETS ALL THE REQUIREMENTS I CONSIDER A GOOD PERSON MUST HAVE. I CAN SAY WITH SINCERITY THAT HE'S NOT A BAD PERSON. HE'S SO GOOD THAT I DECIDED TO GIVE HIM THE SACRAMENT OF MY DAUGHTER'S THE BAPTISM .

I CONSIDER HIM SUCH A NICE AND GOOD PERSON THAT I CHOSE HIM TO BE MY DAUGHTER'S GODFATHER: I'VE TRUSTED HIM WITH THE MOST VALUABLE THING I HAVE, MY DAUGHTER. I CHOSE HIM BECAUSE HE'S A NOBLE PERSON WITH A KIND HEART BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT A GODFATHER IS LIKE A SECOND FATHER OR RATHER ANOTHER PILLAR OF SUPPORT AND ROLE MODEL IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO YOU. MY DAUGHTER IS FIVE YEARS OLD AND SHE LOVES HER *NINO JORGITO* BECAUSE HE'S ALWAYS BEEN THERE FOR EACH OF THE IMPORTANT EVENTS: HER BIRTHDAY, HER FIRST STEPS, CHRISTMAS.

# Practical Application

EN LO QUE YO TENGO DE CONOCERLO ME A DEMOSTRADO QUE ESTA PREPARADO PARA ESTE COMPROMISO COMO LO ES CUIDAR Y VER POR SUS SERES QUERIDOS, PARA NADIE ES FACIL PASAR LO QUE EL ESTA VIVIENDO EN ESTOS MOMENTOS PERO CONFIAMOS EN DIOS QUE PRONTO ESTARA CON NOSOTROS COMPARTIENDO DE NUEVO NUESTROS DIAS. Y ASI CONTAGIARNOS CON SU ALEGRIA Y AYUDAR A LOS QUE LO RODEAN CON SUS OCURRENCIAS A TODOS LOS QUE LO RODEAMOS, EL SABE COMO CONFORTAR EN MOMENTOS DUROS. EL SABE CUANDO ES ADECUADO HACER BROMAS Y SOBRE TODO CUANDO DAR APOYO, ES UNA PERSONA OPTIMISTA Y NOS AYUDA A VER LA VIDA CON ALEGRIA Y VER EL LADO BUENO A LAS COSAS CUANDO SON NEGATIVAS.

YO LO CONSIDERO UNA PERSONA HUMILDE BUENA GENEROSA QUE SIEMPRE VEIA POR EL BIENESTAR DE LOS QUE LO RODEAMOS, NO ME REFIERO A GENEROSO EN COSAS MATERIALES SI NO EN QUE EL COMPARTIA CON TODOS LOS QUE LO RODEABAMOS SU TIEMPO Y SIN ESPERAR NADA A CAMBIO SIEMPRE NOS AYUDABA Y ESTABA AHÍ CUANDO ALGO SE OFRECIA, ES UNA PERSONA RESPETUOSA ESO ES ALGO QUE LOS QUE LO CONOCEMOS SABEMOS MUY BIEN, TODAS LAS PERSONAS POR EL HECHO DE SERLO MERECEMOS TAMBIEN NUESTRO RESPETO.

DURING THE TIME THAT I'VE KNOWN HIM, HE'S SHOWN ME THAT HE'S PREPARED FOR THE COMMITMENT OF TAKING CARE AND LOOKING AFTER HIS LOVED ONES. IT'S NOT EASY FOR ANYONE TO GO THROUGH WHAT HE'S GOING THROUGH RIGHT NOW, BUT WE TRUST IN GOD THAT HE'LL SOON BE BACK AMONG US SHARING OUR DAYS WITH US, SO THAT HE CAN PASS ON TO US HIS JOY AND HELP THOSE AROUND HIM WITH HIS WIT. HE KNOWS HOW TO COMFORT ALL THOSE AROUND HIM DURING HARD TIMES. HE KNOWS WHEN IT'S APPROPRIATE TO JOKE AROUND AND ABOVE ALL ELSE WHEN TO BE SUPPORTIVE. HE'S AN OPTIMIST AND HELPS US SEE LIFE WITH JOY, TO SEE THE SILVER LINING WHEN THINGS BRING US DOWN.

I THINK HE'S A HUMBLE, GOOD, GENEROUS PERSON WHO'S ALWAYS LOOKING AFTER THE WELL-BEING OF THOSE OF US AROUND HIM (I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT BEING GENEROUS BY SHARING MATERIAL THINGS, RATHER THAT HE'D SHARE HIS TIME WITH ALL OF US) AND WITHOUT EXPECTING ANYTHING IN RETURN HE'D ALWAYS HELP US AND HE WAS ALWAYS THERE IF SOMETHING WAS NEEDED. HE'S A RESPECTFUL PERSON: THAT'S SOMETHING THOSE OF US WHO KNOW HIM KNOW REAL WELL. BY VIRTUE OF A PERSON BEING RESPECTFUL, THEY ALSO DESERVE OUR RESPECT.

# Practical Application

H. Caborca, Sonora a 25 de mayo de 2020

A quien corresponda:

Por este medio quiero hablar sobre mi cuñado, [REDACTED].  
[REDACTED]. Ha decir verdad no tengo sino cosas positivas que decir sobre él. Tengo siete años de conocerlo, y en este tiempo él ha sabido ganarse mi cariño y el de toda mi familia. [REDACTED] tiene un gran corazón, es carismático, divertido, servicial, optimista y cariñoso. El tiempo sin él ha sido duro para mi familia ya que él se ganó su lugar y se convirtió en un miembro fundamental gracias a su buena disposición; él siempre está ahí para ayudarnos.

Es una experiencia dura la que vive ahora, y no me cabe duda que él ha aprendido de ella. De corazón espero que pueda estar pronto de regreso con nosotros.

Agradezco la atención prestada

Heroica Caborca, Sonora. May 25, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

By means of this letter I'd to talk about my brother-in-law, [REDACTED].  
[REDACTED]. Truth be told, I have nothing but positive things to say about him. I've known him for seven years and during that time he's earned my affection and that of my entire family.

[REDACTED] has a great, big heart. He's charismatic, fun, helpful, upbeat and affectionate. This time without him has been hard for my family because he earned a place among us and became a fundamental member due his good disposition. He's always there to help us.

He's going through a hard time right now and I have no doubt that he's learned from it. I wholeheartedly hope that he can be back among us soon.

I thank you for your attention.

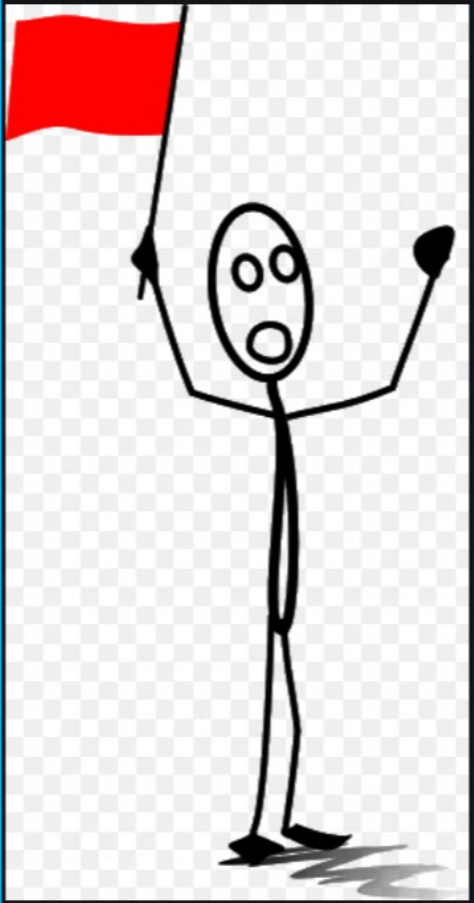
Letters ~ 4

# Practical Application

Yo [redacted] Hermano  
de [redacted] 12/13/16  
Considero que es buena persona  
lo que le a pasado y a  
tenido malos momentos en la  
Vida.  
no puedo culpar a sus amistades.  
por que cada persona tiene su  
propia forma de pensar y  
pienso como hermano que soy de el.  
que todas tenemas una segunda  
oportunidad. Y cuando el llegue  
a estar libre y apoyarlo para que  
sea una persona util para lo  
Sociedad y para el mismo. Y  
espero la persona que le valla a  
tocar como Juez le de la  
oportunidad de salir pronto de  
su problema. espero que Dios le  
ayude a tomar una decicion Justa  
muchas gracias.  
a quien corresponda.

12/13/16  
I, [redacted] [redacted] brother,  
consider that he is a good person who's had  
stuff happen to him and gone through tough  
times in life.  
I cannot blame his fiends because each person  
has his/her own way of thinking.  
I believe, being his brother, that we should all  
get a second chance.  
When he's released, we'll be supportive so that  
he can become a productive person in the  
community and for himself.  
I hope that the judge he gets gives a chance to  
get out of this problem soon. I hope God helps  
you make a fair decision.  
Thank you very much.

# Practical Application



A quien Corresponde :

mi nombre es  
[redacted], conozco a [redacted]  
[redacted] soy su  
hermana, yo se que el tiene  
problemas con adicción, pero es  
una buena persona, amable, trabajador,  
buen padre, cariñoso, me gustaria  
que tuviera una nueva oportunidad  
en su vida, rehabilitarse, trabajar,  
dedicarse a sus hijos, a su familia,  
es un buen hermano

# MORE TIPS: GREASE IS THE WORD

❖ Por medio del/de la presente

I hereby ~ By means of this letter

❖ ... más cordial y atenta

Respectfully, very respectfully

❖ Con todo el respeto que se merece

BEWARE: with all due respect

❖ CORAZÓN

With heartfelt sincerity, wholeheartedly

BEWARE: wearing my heart on my sleeve

# MORE TIPS: GREASE IS THE WORD

❖ “LIC.” Nombre y dos apellidos


<https://www.cedulaprofesional.sep.gob.mx/cedula/presidencia/indexAvanzada.action>

❖ 1.50 m [4'9"]

❖ Net pay: MX\$ 2, 165.80 [US\$ 114.09] \*date

❖ Medical Summaries: micturition et al

❖ Dirección: AO



**“Translation is an art, not a science, after all, and there can be limitless textual and contextual elements that problematize even the very best of translations...”**

**Queen’s College Translation Exchange blog**



**THANK YOU**

**Marcia\_Resler@fd.org,  
Arizona Federal Public Defender Office Staff Interpreter**