

BELL WORK

Most men seem to live according to sense rather than reason.

St. Thomas Aquinas

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Write 3-5 sentences in your composition book explaining what you think the above quote means. Take out your white board and dry erase marker. Take out your foldable from yesterday! You will be writing under the INTELLECTUAL portion today.

Objective & Standard

I can evaluate Thomas Aquinas's ideas on philosophy.

SPI: 7.39 ~~Explain the importance of the Catholic church as a political, intellectual, and aesthetic institution, including founding of universities, political and spiritual roles of the clergy, creation of monastic and mendicant religious orders, preservation of the Latin language and religious texts,~~ Thomas Aquinas's synthesis of classical philosophy with Christian theology and the concept of "natural law."



Instructions



- Red text: (STOP and pay close attention)
Critical information. You should copy it exactly.
- Yellow text: (SLOW down and pay attention)
Useful information. You should write it in your notes in your own words.
- Green text: (Read and GO to the next text)
You do not have to write.
- Questions are in ORANGE.

The Thirst For Knowledge

- While some people were drawing away from the world (in monasteries and convents), others were looking for ways to learn more about the vast world!
- Some people craved knowledge, so universities were built in Europe.
- What does “crave” mean? What is something you crave? (white board)
- Why would people crave knowledge? Some of the earliest universities were built by the church.

Universities

- The goal of the church was to teach the people about religion. Universities were created by groups of students who went searching for teachers who could tell them about the world.
- The universities also taught law, medicine, astronomy, and other courses. All classes were taught in **Latin**, because this was the language of the scholars and the church.

Universities Continued

- As people began to study new subjects, some of them developed new ideas about the world. In particular, they wondered how human reason and Christian faith were related. What does this mean???
- People believed that some things needed to be proven and others had to be taken on faith. People in the universities began to wonder if the two ideas could work together.
- Where do you stand? Can you believe things that can't be proven? Don't answer out loud. Ponder it silently.

Peer Prediction

With your group predict what natural law meant in the Catholic church?





Natural law

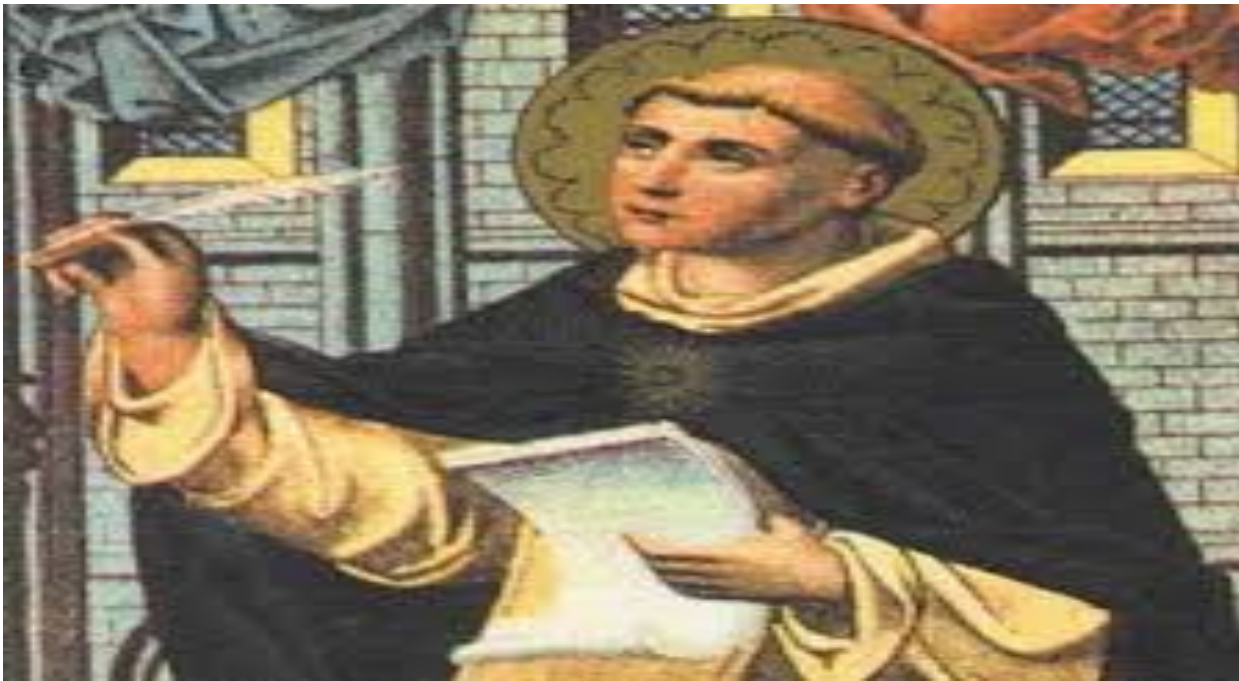
- Natural law refers to the use of reason to analyze human nature (both social and personal) and understand rules of moral behavior from it.

Thomas Aquinas Bio

- Thomas Aquinas came from a **wealthy Italian ruling family** in the 13th century.
- At age five, he was sent to a monastery in hopes that someday he would be abbot. But King Frederick III sent his troops to occupy the monastery as a fortress.
- Thomas transferred to the University of Naples, where he came into contact with the Dominicans (friars). Their life of prayer and study fascinated him, and he was determined to join them.
- His family was shocked that Thomas would join a group of poor friars. His mother sent his brothers after him. They kidnapped and imprisoned him for more than a year at a family castle. Nothing would shake his resolution to enter the Dominicans.
- **Finally, Thomas's family gave up on discouraging him from becoming a priest, and in 1244, he joined the order.**

About His Life

- He was a professor at the University of Paris. He argued that rational thought could be used to support Christian beliefs. For example, he wrote an argument to prove the existence of God.



Thomas Aquinas Reader (10 - 15 minutes)

- Read and answer the questions on the worksheet.
- Be prepared to share your answers.

What Does it Mean?

“To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary.

To one without faith, no explanation is possible.”

St. Thomas Aquinas

Text Activity

Each brain buddy will receive a quote written by St. Thomas Aquinas.

1. Study the quote. Reread it a few times!
2. Break it down. What is this quote's true meaning? Why is important?
3. Rewrite the quote in your own words. Be creative.

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Assessment

- St. Thomas Aquinas's revolutionary views said that "both kinds of knowledge (faith and reason) ultimately come from God" and were therefore compatible. Not only were they compatible, according to Thomas's ideology, they could work in collaboration: He believed that faith could guide reason and prevent it from making mistakes, while reason could clarify and explain faith.
- Evaluate St. Thomas Aquinas's idea. Do you agree or disagree with him? Can faith (what you believe with out seeing) and reason (logic/science) work together? Or are the ideas in conflict?