Handout:

# I’ve been asked to translate subtitles —what do I need to think about?

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| **Basics of subtitling** | **Keys to quality** | **Advanced** |
| **Correct**  Accurate content  idiomatic language | **Clarity**  Eliminate filler words, flubs, repetitions,  false starts | **Logical units** Complete sentences, complete phrases.  Wherever possible,  keep full phrases  on the same line\*  \* (not always possible) |
| **Subtitle length** 2 lines 37–42 keystrokes = chars with spaces | **Condense naturally** Shorter phrases/words Eliminate nonessentials |
| **Timing** 1 short line: 1.5–2 sec 1 full line: 3 sec 2 full lines: 5–6 sec | **Scene change** Never let subtitles run across scene changes | **Timing between subtitles** 2–4 frames between subtitles **unless** at least 1 sec pause in speech |

Medietextarna—subtitlers’ branch of Journalistförbudet – has published guidelines for subtitling in Sweden.

<https://www.medietextarna.se/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Riktlinjer-för-undertextning-i-Sverige-1-2020.pdf>