



## AQUINAS 101 HANDOUTS

*"Aquinas 101 is a project of the Thomistic Institute that seeks to promote Catholic truth and the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas through short, engaging video lessons."*<sup>1</sup> The Aquinas 101 handouts each correspond to a video in the Aquinas 101 video series.

These handouts are designed for middle and high school students. While the Aquinas 101 videos contain high-level philosophical and theological concepts, they are short and engaging, and with the right teacher support, they can be a perfect introduction into the world of Catholic theology for young minds. The Aquinas 101 handouts provide teachers with a scaffolding tool to guide students into these great ideas.

For most students, these videos will be their first exposure to the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas, a Dominican saint from the 13th century and one of the greatest lights of the Catholic intellectual tradition. The purpose of using these videos and handouts at the middle and high school level is not to master the concepts, but to expose students to the ideas and help them begin to engage, in an age-appropriate way, *"...life's most urgent philosophical and theological questions with the wisdom of St. Thomas Aquinas."*<sup>2</sup>

### How to use these handouts:

The handouts can be used in a variety of ways depending on the teacher's discretion and the students' abilities and needs. One possibility is to show one video per week as a supplemental activity to the main curriculum. Alternatively, they could be used sporadically to supplement various topics in the curriculum. However, the videos are ordered systematically and build on each other so it is beneficial to show them in order.

It is strongly recommended to show the video once before giving students the handout. The first viewing allows them to take in the big ideas without getting distracted by the handout. Watching the video a second time with the handout allows students to begin to track and organize the ideas in the video.

**Words to know:** Each handout begins with a list of vocabulary words and brief definitions. These are unfamiliar vocabulary words that are used in the video but not explained in depth. It may be helpful to introduce these words before students watch the video.

**Comprehension question:** At the end of each handout is a comprehension question. This can be used for class discussion, small groups, or independently. It is aimed at allowing the student to apply the concepts learned in the video in a preliminary way in order to deepen their understanding.

<sup>1</sup> [aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org](http://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid