

Preparing Assessments

@Morling w/Wendy

writing is as varied as...

Cumulus, stratus, cirrus, nimbostratus



Academic writing has a variety of forms or genre, such as writing to *describe*, *analyse*, or *persuade*. In addition, theological writing may have an element of *reflection*, or *application* to ministry.

let's get writing

amazing morling students



analysing the question

step 1

To answer the question, you need to understand it.



writing an outline

step 2

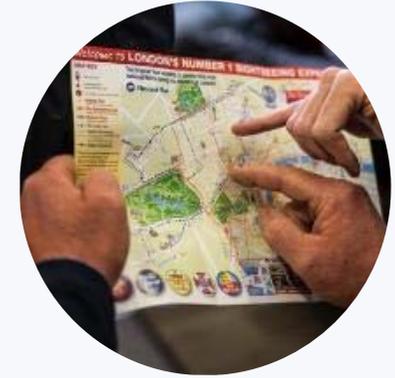
Swimming or drowning? Reading can be confusing unless you have a plan



paragraphing

step 3

Each paragraph contains one main idea. Grow your paper, one paragraph at a time!



abstracts, intros, conclusions

step 4

Be nice! Guide your reader so they know what your paper is about and where it is going.

analyse the question

Carefully!



Let's work through an example

NT502 Early New Testament Church.

Assessment 2: Essay

Weighting: 40%, Due date: 30 August, 2020, Word length: 2500 words

Essay Question/Statement

Evaluate the roles and significance of Christian leaders (apostles, elders, evangelists, deacons, others?) in God's mission in the book of Acts and the Pastoral Epistles.

Lecturer's Tips

Your response should articulate the goals, nature, and scope of God's mission, and the relationship between God's work and human work in God's mission, as these are presented in Acts and the Pastorals. You should also give some consideration to the question of how prescriptive the accounts in Acts and the teaching of the pastorals are for the contemporary church.

analyse the question

Break it up. Turn it into a manageable list of questions



Essay Question	Your Analysis (question form)
<p>Evaluate the roles and significance of Christian leaders (apostles, elders, evangelists, deacons, others?) in the book of Acts and the Pastoral Epistles.</p> <p>Give some consideration to the question of how prescriptive the accounts in Acts and the teaching of the pastorals are for the contemporary church</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What were the roles of Christian leaders in the book of Acts and the Pastoral Epistles?• Which of these roles were significant?• Are these roles the same today? Are they as significant?• To what extent are the accounts in Acts and the teaching of the pastorals descriptive or prescriptive for the contemporary church? In other words, tell what did happen or what should happen.
<p>Lecturer's tips</p> <p>God's mission in the book of Acts and the Pastoral Epistles.</p> <p>Articulate the goals, nature, and scope of God's mission, and the relationship between God's work and human work in God's mission.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is God's mission in the Bible?• What are the goals, nature, and scope of God's mission?• Is God's mission in Acts and the Pastoral Epistles the same or different to his mission elsewhere in the Bible?• What is the relationship between God's work and human work in God's mission?

writing an outline 1

Early New Testament Church



Take your brainstorm, and order it

Introduction

What is the topic?

What is the purpose?

(What is the scope?)

(What terms need defining?)

What is the map (essay outline)?

Body

God's Mission – extended definition

The Church – formation, function, roles

Apostles- defined, special role, not today

Elders – OT, NT, examples, role, plural better

Deacons – NT, similar/different to elders

Body continued

Prophets – OT, NT, role, fulfilled in Christ

Evangelists – NT, role like elders, less formalised

Conclusion

Restate purpose – God's mission accomplished through the church

Sum up main points – for a biblical model of leadership in the contemporary church

writing an outline 1

Early New Testament Church



Establishing your argument explicitly and inductively

Introduction

What is the topic? Christian Leaders help accomplish God's mission

What is the purpose? To evaluate the roles and significance of Christian leaders in God's mission.

(What is the scope?) ...in the book of Acts and the Pastoral Epistles

(What terms need defining?) God's mission

What is the map (essay outline)? this essay will firstly introduce the goal and extent of God's mission, and subsequently discuss the function, and importance of each type of Christian leader and its implications for the contemporary church in relation to God's mission.

analyse the question 2

Let's work through another example



CO613

Assessment 2:Case Study

Weighting: 50%, Due date: 25 October, 2017, Word length: 3500 words

By Elizabeth Crocombe

Theory Application Case Study using the movie, *Manchester By The Sea*, (starring Casey Affleck, Michelle Williams, and Lucas Hedges) will be the backdrop for this case study. The main character, Lee Chandler (played by Casey Affleck) has come for counselling in a last-ditch attempt to "beat it" (meaning, in part, his aversion to living in Manchester and the traumatic memories it holds) as he realises his unhealthy isolation and desire to care for his nephew as his only living family member.

Chose two counselling theories from two different schools of therapy and apply them (including their interventions) to the main character. You can include appendixes of relevant information, illustrations and diagrams at the end of the essay to illustrate your points.

writing an outline 2

Counselling Theory Application Case Study using a movie



1. Conceptualisation:

- themes
- observations
- diagnostic assessment
- why Gestalt & EFT theories chosen

2. Gestalt:

- main philosophical tenets and concepts
- what is client growth & change?
- key strengths and weaknesses of theory and interventions

3. Emotionally Focused Therapy:

- main philosophical tenets and concepts
- what is client growth & change?
- key strengths and weaknesses of theory and interventions

4. Applying 1 or 2 Gestalt techniques/interventions that meet client needs and goals:

- how would I establish a working alliance?
- how would I identify key issues and conceptualise?
- how would I develop a therapeutic plan that reflects the literature?

writing an outline 2

Theory Application Case Study using a movie



- 4. Applying 1 or 2 Gestalt techniques/interventions that meet client needs**
 - identify and consider factors influencing implementation or the therapeutic plan and intervention - e.g. culture, gender, age etc.
 - identify and deal with counsellor limitations; e.g. gender, comfort, personal style, skills, prejudices and stereotypical attitudes and the potential influence these may have
 - how would I apply the interventions?
 - how would I monitor the relationship?
 - what would the expected outcomes be?
 - any difficulties encountered as I begin to apply the theory and interventions to client
 - Has the experience of applying theory to the client changed my opinion? Explain.
- 5. Explain which theory I would be most comfortable using and why**

paragraphing

One idea = One paragraph



Topic Sentences

A topic sentence in the body contains the main idea as a *preview* to the rest of the paragraph. It should be a short and punchy proposition or claim in your voice. Then the rest of the sentences in the paragraph fill out this idea, supporting it with specific details (*evidence, examples, facts*). For example:

The term apostles has both a technical and a nontechnical usage.

The technical usage implies "disciples of Christ" who were chosen directly by Jesus, while the nontechnical usage has the meaning of "the messenger" or "accredited representative" 7. In my essay I will use the technical term for apostles 8. In addition to the twelve apostles of Christ, Barnabas was called an apostle as he had seen the Lord and had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus (Acts 9:27). Paul became increasingly prominent in God's mission as an apostle ...

paragraphing

One idea = One paragraph

More on Topic Sentences

Topic sentences should be a complete, self contained idea. Consider each of these sentences and decide if they are worthy topic sentences or not



1. The work of the apostles could not be accomplished without the full counsel and empowering by the Triune God.
2. He sometimes reveals what the church is to do in mission and where one should go.
3. There is no evidence that successors with such unique characters were found after the apostles began to die off.
4. Moreover, the elders worked closely with the apostles in many events for expanding God's kingdom.

paragraphing

One idea = One paragraph

More on Topic Sentences

Topic sentences should be a complete, self contained idea. Consider each of these sentences and decide if they are worthy topic sentences or not



1. The work of the apostles could not be accomplished without the full counsel and empowering by the Triune God. **YES**
2. **He** sometimes reveals what the church is to do in mission and where **one** should go. **No, vague**
3. **There is** no evidence that successors with such unique characters were found after the apostles began to die off. **No, empty start, such is compared to what?**
4. **Moreover**, the elders worked closely with the apostles in many events for expanding God's kingdom. **No, use connectors within, not between paragraphs**

paragraphing

One idea = One paragraph



Using topic sentences for macro-level organising

The main idea expressed in a strategic topic sentences may also be used to introduce a larger discussion made up of several paragraphs. Here it acts as an overview of a section.

The goal of this chapter is to find a set of concepts which describe unity: among believers , leaders, churches, and denominations.

believers

leaders

churches

denominations

abstracts, intros, conclusions

What's the difference?



Abstracts

What is the topic? What does the essay examine? How was the research conducted?

Tip: Write this in the present tense; sum up your main findings

Introductions

Why is the topic important/significant? What is the aim of the essay? What is your position or answer or argument? Are brief definitions needed? What is the outline/structure of this paper?

Tip: Write this in future tense; it is useful to briefly define key terms here, and give extended definitions in the Body. Your outline is like giving your reader a road map.

Conclusions

What was the purpose of this paper? (Restate) What were the main findings? (Summarise)

Tip: Write this in past tense. E.g. 'This essay discussed...' Also, do not add new material

abstracts, intros, conclusions



NT501 Major Essay Paul Dennis

What's the difference?

Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to examine what the miraculous stories outlined in the synoptic gospels reveal about the person and work of Jesus Christ and to compare this with the function of the miracle stories in John's gospel. This essay affirms that the miracle stories are essential in gaining a more complete understanding of Jesus and his ministry. The synoptic miracles reveal Jesus as loving and compassionate, the fulfilment of Messianic prophecy and divine in attributes. The synoptic miracle stories also unveil the nature and power of kingdom of God that Jesus so often spoke about and show that this kingdom is for those who have faith in Him. In John's gospel the focus of the miracle accounts is not on the kingdom of God, but on their nature as signs that point to who Jesus' is and the life that he offers which should prompt a response of trust and faith from the observer.

Introduction

When it comes to understanding the person and work of Jesus Christ, there has been a tendency in scholarship to sideline the miracles of Jesus and to focus on the other aspects of the canonical gospel content.¹ The purpose of the miracle stories has often been reduced to a mere revelation of Jesus as a "wonder-worker" with supernatural power.² This is likely, in part, a legacy of the extreme rationalism that gave birth in the Enlightenment age. This rationalism resulted in historical-critical commentators casting considerable doubt on the historicity of a weighty portion of the miracle accounts, thus reducing their instructive significance.³ The purpose of this essay is to unveil the true meaning and function of the miracle stories outlined by the four evangelists in their biographical and historical accounts of Jesus. This work will not be a historical inquiry.⁴ Rather, it will analyse the theological significance of the miracle stories in order to determine who Jesus was (and is) and why he performed the miraculous. To achieve this, firstly the miracle accounts of the synoptic writers Matthew, Mark and Luke will be examined. Following this, the miracle stories of John will be assessed and their function compared with the synoptics.

abstracts, intros, conclusions



NT501 Major Essay Paul Dennis

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Introduction

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abstracts, intros, conclusions

What's the difference



Early NT Church Paper

Abstract

The salvation plan of God is clearly revealed throughout the Bible and His mission is intensively recorded in the Four Gospels and the book of Acts. God intends to bring salvation to all nations as the fulfilment of His promise through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. God ordained apostles as pioneering messengers of the gospel. The apostles of Christ bear divine authority and are eye-witnesses of the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. They played a crucial role in clarifying God's salvation plan clearly and brought Jews and Gentiles in unity. They are founders of the church and equippers of the succeeding Christian leaders. New Testament evidence shows that two offices of Christian leadership: elders and deacons are formed in early church. Elders are leaders and overseers of the church whose primary role is teaching and shepherding. Deacons are another group of leaders whose primary role is serving. Elders and deacons cooperated together to keep the church headed in the right direction, build unity and enhanced the ministry of the church. It is biblical and important to embrace plural leadership of elders in contemporary churches. Such a biblical model can nurture a healthy church and healthy Christians and ultimately accomplish God's global mission until Jesus' return.

Introduction

Christian leaders are special people who are appointed and guided by God, empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness Jesus' redemptive work to ultimately accomplish God's worldwide mission. God's mission is to bring salvation to every human, first to the Jews and ultimately to all nations. God established the church and appointed different types of leaders including apostles, elders, deacons, prophets and evangelists to accomplish his mission until Jesus' second coming. These Christian leaders have distinctive roles and play important roles at different times in history for God's work. The book of Acts and the Pastoral Epistles demonstrated a biblical model of Christian leadership. Based on these books, this essay will firstly introduce the goal and the scope of god's mission, and subsequently discuss the function, importance of each type of Christian leaders and its implication to the contemporary church in relation to god's mission.

abstracts, intros, conclusions



Early NT Church Paper

What's the difference

Introduction

Christian leaders are special people who are appointed and guided by God, empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness Jesus' redemptive work to ultimately accomplish God's world-wide mission. God's mission is to bring salvation to every human, first to the Jews and ultimately to all nations. God established the church and appointed different types of leaders including apostles, elders, deacons, prophets and evangelists to accomplish his mission until Jesus' second coming. These Christian leaders have distinctive roles and play important roles at different times in history for God's work. The book of Acts and the Pastoral Epistles demonstrated a biblical model of Christian leadership. Based on these books, this essay will firstly introduce the goal and the scope of God's mission, and subsequently discuss the function, importance of each type of Christian leaders and its implication to the contemporary church in relation to God's mission.

Conclusion

God's mission is to bring salvation to everyone which is a fulfilment of His promise. His mission is accomplished through the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. God founded the church and commissioned apostles as pioneers of the gospel-centred mission in the name of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. The apostles appointed elders and deacons to start the second stage of accomplishing God's mission. Elders and deacons cooperated together to keep the church headed in the right direction, build unity and enhanced the ministry of the church. It is biblical and important to embrace plurality of elders in leadership in contemporary churches. Such a biblical model can nurture a healthy church and healthy Christians and ultimately accomplish God's global mission until Jesus' return.

abstracts, intros, conclusions

What's the difference



Case Study Paper

Abstract

Lee Chandler is a '30 something' divorced man who is carrying around a very heavy emotional burden. Lee's three young children were killed in a house fire; his wife barely escaping; that, because of a simple act of forgetfulness, he was responsible for. He had moved away from his home town of Manchester, a small working class fishing village, because the memories were just too great for him. However, with the death of Lee's older brother he is assigned guardianship of his nephew, Patrick. He has found his time back in Manchester extremely difficult and emotionally provoking, when for the last few years, he has worked very hard to numb out the pain. Almost giving up, he decides to seek counselling in the hope that he can find some peace and care for his brother's son. This essay explores Lee's case, the therapeutic modalities of Gestalt and Emotionally-Focused Therapy and how his therapy would proceed using these therapies. Research was conducted with texts and journal articles, as well as discussions with other therapists that have shaped my thinking.

Introduction

This essay will explore the case of Lee, who comes to counselling in a last-ditch attempt to "beat it"; meaning, in part, his aversion to living in Manchester because of the traumatic memories it holds, and so he can care for his recently deceased brother's son, Patrick. Firstly, I will present an overall case conceptualisation regarding Lee, his key issues, and themes, as well as proposing the therapeutic modalities of Gestalt and Emotionally-Focused Therapy (EFT) in relation to Lee and his presenting issues. A further exploration follows of both Gestalt and EFT concepts, definitions of client change as well as key strengths and limitations of both theories. Next, this essay will examine the implementation of both Gestalt and EFT interventions with Lee; their outcomes and difficulties. Finally, as a result of applying these interventions, an assessment will be given of which theory I am most comfortable in using.

abstracts, intros, conclusions



Case Study Paper

What's the difference

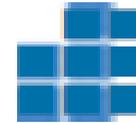
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Conclusion

In conclusion, this essay has explored the case of Lee Chandler. He presented for counselling because he wanted to feel more at peace living in Manchester and be able to care for his nephew, however because of tragic circumstances he has been caught in the past and has been unable to move forward. A case conceptualisation was presented, a brief description of both Gestalt and Emotionally-Focused Therapy, and an explanation of how I would go about building relationship with Lee and commence therapy with the interventions that are typical to each therapy. Finally, I have discussed what I have learnt through this case, and my preference for, and uncertainty of, deep emotional process. I have enjoyed this learning experience, and it has spurred me on to continue my reading and training in these areas.

Marking Rubrics



AQF Level 6

What are you aiming for?

Criterion	HD	Criterion	HD
Abstract	Abstract present & accurately summarises the content of the essay, including the key findings, written in the present tense	Relevance	All of the key points relating to the question are covered
Writing Style	Excellent. Typical features: one idea per paragraph; free from spelling and grammatical errors; complete sentences; appropriate academic tone.	Argumentation	Ideas are backed up with supporting evidence, as well as references to primary and secondary literature
Introduction	Introduces the topic and outlines the proposed method of answering the question	Use of primary	Analyse and critique
Conclusion	Summarises the main findings of the essay	Use of secondary sources	Evaluate a range of views, note strengths/weaknesses
Arrangement	Material organised in a clear, logical manner,	Number & Quality of sources	Academic, both recent and classic works

Thanks for coming!

Do you have a question?



Please feel free to email Wendy with academic writing queries: academictutor@morling.edu.au



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