**Guide to Written Reports**

**How to Write a Review (Critique)**

**General Reviews** (e.g., book reviews). Every critique does not need every sub-component listed below, but main sections (1, 2, 3, and 4) should be covered.

1. ***Understand*** author’s argument
2. ***Summarize*** and ***rewrite*** author's argument in your own words (citing from where one drew thought; quotes are good, but your words are often better than a quote)
3. ***Compare*** author's point versus:
4. Logic (is it cogent and coherent). Does it make sense?
5. Scripture (is it comprehensive). Does it take into account all of Scripture?
   1. Does the author handle the text correctly—look at the verses in context and confirm author's meaning is in line with biblical author’s meaning
   2. Are there Scriptures that confirm the author’s use of a particular Scripture?
6. ***Draw*** necessary ***implications*** for life and practice
7. Are there certain methods that must follow from presented truths?
8. What would ministry (counseling) look like if one followed principles discovered?

One cannot simply prove that an author has made a valid point by (1) quoting the book, (2) saying you agree, or (3) acknowledging the author has quoted Scripture. Demons know Scripture (cf. Jas 2:19 where demons even believe). Indeed, the devil quoted Scripture to Jesus, ***but he did so incorrectly*** (Luke 4:1-13). One must establish good evidence that the author has rightly divided the Word of truth (2 Tim 2:15; cf. Acts 17:11 for a positive example of the Bereans).

**Terms**:

Summary: Condense author’s main points. Show the points you chose to be, in fact, the main points to the author by quoting/referencing author.

Critique: How does the book handle Scripture? Does the author draw implications that the biblical author intended? *One cannot prove author is correct by merely quoting author*.

Implications: Actions, methods, or behaviors required in light of truths presented.

Devotion: How book affects reader; e.g., how book enlarges love for God.

***Do not give devotional, testimonial, or sermonic material***.

**Helpful Hints**:

Capitalize: Word, Bible, Scripture, Gospel of Mark

Not capitalized: adjectives, e.g., biblical, scriptural, gospel, etc.

When quoting material: “words, words” (reference, page). Notice period is outside parentheses.

**Semester One Book Reviews**

Submit electronically your book reports to Lorra Ensign: [lorra@rodandstaffministries.org](mailto:lorra@rodandstaffministries.org). In order to advance your learning and our grading, please prepare each report (2 pages max) in the following format (2 total reports are required for Semester One):

1. Book Summary
   1. Briefly summarize what the author’s main points (if many, choose 3) are
   2. ***Two*** paragraphs should be sufficient
   3. No evaluation at this point
2. Memorable Quotations
   1. Directly quote 5-7 memorable quotations
   2. The quotes may capture themes or ideas (both new and/or challenging)
   3. Please include page number of quote: For example, Tripp says, “…” (35).
3. Book Critique
   1. Evaluate the book through the lens of Scripture
   2. ***Two*** paragraphs should be sufficient
   3. One may evaluate the main points already summarized, or particular ideas (1-3)
   4. Show Scripture reference and book page
4. Please Avoid
   1. Personal application (how book has affected you; testimonials)
   2. Devotional material (sermon-ette)

In total, the report should be no more than two pages, double spaced lines. ***Lucidity*** (clarity) and ***brevity*** (conciseness) are great goals.

**Semester Two Paper**

**Requirements**

Submit electronically your book reports to Lorra Ensign: [lorra@rodandstaffministries.org](mailto:lorra@rodandstaffministries.org).

Formatting instructions: 10 pages, double spaced, 1” margins. Times New Roman font.

Assignment: Compare and contrast psychological versus biblical soul care (counseling/discipleship) in six areas:

* + 1. Basis of Truth?
    2. Who is Man?
    3. What is the Problem?
    4. What is the Goal?
    5. What is the Solution?
    6. What is God Doing?
    7. What is the Role of the Counselor?

In each area, summarize and critique both views (biblical and psychological), referencing and quoting Scripture and appropriate sources.

If you write:

1. One page Introduction
2. One page to one and a half pages per issue
3. One page Summary

…then you will easily achieve the 10 page goal.

***On the following page*** you will find an outline that if followed will satisfy content and length requirements. The outline is not merely an example, but the outline you should use. Strive to answer the questions offered.

For starters please consult the resources found on page 18, under Lesson 7, in writing your paper. One may also find ***very profitable*** the following article:

“The Christian and Psychology,” Gary Gilley, found at:

<http://www.svchapel.org/downloads/TheologyLessons/Christian_and_Psychology.pdf>

**How to Appraise Counseling Models**

1. What is the basis of truth (epistemology)?
   1. How does one know what they know?
   2. From where does true knowledge come?
   3. Does true knowledge come from with man, or what man can sense, or must true knowledge come from outside of man? Is man too subjective to be trusted; must an external, objective truth be given?
      1. Intuition: What feels right
      2. Reason: What I think is right
      3. Empiricism: What tests show to senses
      4. Revelation: What God says
2. What is the understanding of man (anthropology)?
   1. Is man basically good?
   2. Is man a blank slate (*tabula rasa*)?
   3. Is man imagining God, but fallen?
3. What is THE problem?
   1. Where is THE problem?
      1. External to person in circumstances or toxic other?
      2. Internal to person, but external to soul in biology?
      3. Internal to person’s soul?
   2. How is THE problem found?
4. What is the solution?
   1. Where is the solution found?
   2. What is the process? Who is The Person?
5. What is the goal?
   1. Is the goal coping?
   2. Is the goal avoiding…or attacking?
   3. Is the goal growth and change? How about pleasing and honoring God?
6. What is God doing?
   1. Is He asleep?
   2. Is He capricious? Is He punishing?
   3. Is He overlooking?
   4. Is He good; is He great?
   5. Is He active; if so, how? What is He doing?
7. What is the role of the counselor?
   1. Are you the expert? Do you have all of the answers?
   2. Is the Trinity (God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit) THE counselor?
   3. Are you growing as well?
   4. Are you the accountability partner?
   5. Are you the church; are you the pastor(s)?
   6. Are you a compassionate, courageous, confronter?