

III. COLLEGE CREDIT RESEARCH PAPER

TOPIC 1: A Christian Response to the Environment

Compare and contrast a biblical view of the environment and our place in it with what major secular worldviews suggest about the environment and our place in it with. Discuss the fundamental assumptions that flow from each worldview to shape how this issue is understood. Specific application should be made to the current global warming debate.

TOPIC 2: A Christian Understanding of Personhood and Human Rights

Compare and contrast a biblical view of personhood and human rights with the viewpoints of other major worldviews. Discuss the fundamental assumptions that flow from each worldview to shape how this issue is understood. Include specific discussion about one of the following contemporary social issues:

- a) A major bioethical challenge, such as cloning, transhumanism, the stem cell debate, etc.
- b) Human trafficking

RESEARCH PAPER GUIDELINES

To earn 3 hours of college credit, you must fulfill all of the on-site requirements (application and tuition, essay, and credit exam) plus submit a satisfactory research paper within 30 days of your graduation from a Summit session.

Choose one of the above topics on which to write your paper. The paper must include at least fifteen pages *in addition to* a title page and a bibliography. It should be typed, and use an 11–12 point typeface with Times New Roman font. Each page should have one-inch margins all around, be double-spaced, and be numbered in the top right-hand corner.

The text should be in well-written prose with key quotes validating your arguments. When using direct quotes, you should briefly explain the context from which the quote was taken. Quotes of more than 30 words should be single-spaced and indented ½ inch from the left and right margins, and all direct quotes should be footnoted or endnoted.

We recommend using the style manual *How to Write a Thesis*. Other style manuals such as Chicago (www.chicagomanualofstyle.org) or Turabian are also acceptable. **Note:** *MLA format, commonly taught in high schools, is not acceptable for this paper for the following reasons:*

1. MLA uses parenthetical references for all quotes, while the Chicago/Turabian styles use footnotes or endnotes. Using notes gives the body of the paper the clean line college professors are looking for.
2. MLA uses a "works cited" page instead of a bibliography, while Chicago/Turabian recommend a formal bibliography. Again, college professors will be looking for a formal bibliography and if you use the informal "works cited," you could lose points.

Primary sources are strongly preferred over secondary sources; the individual's own writings are granted more weight than commentaries on them. You should focus your attention on the primary sources: quoting from them, analyzing them, and fully documenting your references. Your grade will be based on:

1. How well you follow the instructions given here
 2. Your use of proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation
 3. Most of all, how well your paper develops and defends your claims
- ❑ Completed papers for CO and TN students should be sent to: Bryan College, ATTN: Dr. Paul Boling, PO Box 7808, Dayton, TN 37321.

- ❑ Completed papers for VA students should be sent to: Liberty University, ATTN: Dr. Tom Metallo, 1971 University Blvd., Lynchburg, VA 24502.

If you have questions as you work on your paper, please feel free to contact Summit by phone (719.685.9103) or e-mail (collegecredit@summit.org).

ELEMENTS TO INCLUDE IN THE PAPER

1. *Cover sheet* (1 page): Give you topic title, your name, the submission date, and course title, "Contemporary Worldviews."
2. *Introduction* (approx. 1 page): Get the reader's attention and explain why this topic is important, what your goals are for the discussion, and how you intend to structure your discussion of the topic (list and briefly describe your main points).
3. *Body of Paper* (approx. 13 pages): Following the outline of your main points, address each topic in detail and state your researched opinion, backing it up with quotes.
4. *Summation* (approx. 1 page): Restate the main conclusions.
5. *Bibliography* (1–2 pages): List all the works consulted in your research, both those you quoted from and others you used to form your conclusions. (Make sure this is a full bibliography.)

RESEARCH PAPER GRADING CRITERIA

Each paper has 100 possible points, which will be broken down into two sections:

- A. Organization/professionalism: each sub-category is worth 8 points, for a possible 40 points total
 1. Clear introduction and purpose
 2. Clear structure (sections demarcated, outline clear)
 3. Well-organized footnotes or endnotes (parenthetical notation not acceptable)
 4. Grammar, punctuation, spelling
 5. Format (pages numbered, margins) and typing (line and word spacing)
- B. Substance/content: each sub-category lists the points allotted, for a possible 60 points total
 1. Demonstrates an understanding of the topic with good use of research (35 pts.)
 2. Applies worldview and biblical insights appropriately to the topic (20 pts.)
 3. Quality of bibliography (5 pts.)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. *Can I email or fax my paper to the professors?* Papers submitted via email or fax will *not* be accepted. Because the professors will be marking up the papers and sending them back to you, you must mail a hardcopy.
2. *Does the paper need to arrive on the professor's desk by the deadline, or does it just need to be postmarked by the deadline?* Your paper needs to be postmarked by the deadline. (Note: if that deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, you must get it postmarked before the post office closes, so plan ahead.)
3. *Will I receive my paper back after it has been graded?* Your paper will be mailed back to you, with a summary of your final grade, after it has been graded.
4. *When can I expect to hear about my final grade?* Be prepared to wait at least 6–8 weeks after mailing in your paper to receive word about your final grade. Most often this information will accompany the graded paper when it is returned to you.
5. *Who do I contact if I have more questions about college credit or the research paper?* Call Summit Ministries at 719.685.9103 and ask for the College Credit Director. You can also email your questions to collegecredit@summit.org.