

How to Write a Course Assignment

The Idea of an Assignment

Folk who listen to biblical studies absorb a certain amount of what they hear, and this is good. Some of what they have heard will come back to them at times in the future. The beauty of doing assignments is they help to fix the material in the mind and recall is easier. Gradually a body of truth builds up, and it is useful for Christian life and witnessing. It is not just enough to retain the materials: it ought to be used.

Preparing to Write an Assignment

Preparation begins in the class room. There you should be trying to get into your mind and memory the material given by the teacher. This may be difficult, since we cannot all retain all we have heard. In every case there are cassettes recorded wheat you can borrow or buy. You can listen to these until you feel you have mastered the material that is taught. At the same time do not overburden yourself with all the material. Try to get the main thought, the main stream of ideas and be content with that. Materials on the subject can be studies in specified books, in the use of Bible and Theological Dictionaries, which your tutor will mend as you enquire of him. The New Creation Library is a good resource place. It is a good thing to let the material digest and mature. Then you can write with clarity what you have grasped.

The Structure of an Assignment

Technically speaking an Essay is a form of writing which has an aim, a reasoned body of material on the subject and a conclusion. You may care to use this method or you may wish to work the assignment out in another way. Whatever pattern you follow you should be clear in what you say, your points and propositions should follow logically. The golden rule for such writing is, 'Define your terms, and verify your references.' Your tutor will be able to check your basis in which you present various points. In our CWS Courses we are more interested in what you have learned from the lecturers, rather than asking you to build more ideas and thoughts on the materials you have. For this reason teachers are interested to know that you have grasped what they have taught. They are thinking of you as persons who find the discoveries they unfold of immense benefit in your life, especially in your Christian understanding. They will also be delighted that you have read beyond them in the teaching aids of books, magazines, cassettes and other resources. Also that they have discussed the assignment with others who can help.

The Marking of Assignments

In the CWS we do not mark in grades, so that none may be dispirited and none caught in pointless pride. We aim to test out whether you are giving your sincere best, and not merely fulfilling a technical obligation. The student benefits by doing his/her best. That good material is captured and come into good use. Teachers would like to sense that the knowledge gained is not just intellectual, nor just visceral (of the heart, the feelings) but is a combination of the both. CWS students often move on to colleges where they obtain diplomas and degrees. The CWS courses set excellent foundations for such studies.

G. Bingham, 1997.