

INCORPORATING THE BIBLE IN YOUR WRITING

INTRO

Incorporating the Bible in the development, argument, and support of your paper is crucial skill in the Bible College setting. Through this resource, you will learn how to use biblical passages in an in-depth way.

Be sure to use biblical passages in every step of the writing process from brainstorming and construction of your thesis to the final draft. One pitfall in using biblical sources is adding verses to the paper after the paper is written. The result of this is that the passages do not fit into the flow of the paper and it is evident that the Bible was not used in the construction of the paper but was more of an afterthought in the writing process.

DEVELOPE

Using the Bible in the development of your topic:

- a. As you brainstorm and begin to research, use a concordance or web search to find relevant passages to your topic.
- b. Compile a list of passages and do a study determining the biblical perspective on your topic. Use the Hermeneutical approach of Observe, Correlate, Interpret, and Apply.□
- c. Look for passages that contain principles that relate to your topic not just related words. This requires more than just plugging in verses throughout your paper but a careful study of the passage and its meaning. Strengthening your paper through inclusion of biblical sources requires a thoughtful and in-depth approach that goes beyond simply quoting passages of scripture.

INCORPORATE

Using the Bible within your paper:

- a. Make sure you fully understand the context of the verse you are quoting. Read the surrounding passage and consult a commentary to determine the context and whether it relates to your topic.
- b. When including a passage of scripture into your writing, it is important to not simply drop the verse into the paper without introduction or explanation.

I.C.E. METHOD

Introduce

Before quoting the passage, explain how the passage relates to the paragraph.

Cite

As a rule, it is better to paraphrase the passage than directly quoting. Paraphrasing does not require you to give the translation you used. Paraphrasing draws attention to the main idea of the passage. If you already have given any information about the reference, you do not need to repeat it in the in-text citation.

- i. Ex. John in his gospel states that Jesus was eternally existence (John 1:1). □
- ii. Ex. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only, begotten Son. That whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (King James Version, John 3.16).
- iii. Ex. In John 3:16, Jesus said, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only, begotten Son. That whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (King James Version).
- iv. The first time you use a translation that serves as an umbrella for all following uses. You do not need to include the translation name as long as you stay with that translation. Every time you use a new translation or switch to another translation, write out the entire version name in italics.

Explain

After quoting the passage, explain its meaning as it relates to your topic.

Expound on the ideas, themes, and implications of the passage as it relates to your paper.