

APOLOGETICS: JOURNALS

11th Grade Bible: 2017-2018

Content Description:

Journals are a collection of information from the readings, class discussions, lectures, guest speakers, scripture studies, homework, and personal reflection. They should contain properly cited and dated daily notes for easy reference. Journals should be organized and clearly reflect class content. The style of the journal and type of content collection is up to the student. Please see the [reflections page](#) on the class website for methods and tips. Ultimately, the journal is meant to serve the student during quizzes and for final paper/presentation preparations.

Student Learning Objective:

The purpose of apologetics is to establish a rhetoric with factual evidence as to why one can believe in the existence of God and the person of Jesus Christ. The purpose of this class is to answer the questions associated with apologetics but having those answers at the ready outside of class is a valuable part of developing a lifelong confidence in your own faith. Recording the various facts and pieces of evidence along with your own personal experiences and thoughts will make the inevitable next step of evangelism much easier. The student's main objective in journaling should be to record information in a way that will best facilitate further use of the journal for answering tough questions that might be asked of them in the future. In other words, if you are just using the journal to make sure you get a good grade, you missed the point. Make this a useful tool to have at the ready so you can speak with confidence of God's kingdom.

Grades:

Journals are due on the last day of the quarter. Be sure to review the below grading rubric before starting your journal so you are providing the necessary information throughout the quarter.

A possible 75 points per quarter will be awarded based on the below criteria:

- 25 points for book, scripture, and reading references
 - Throughout there are references to specific pages, quotes, and word studies.
 - The references should be documented on the top or bottom of the page or within the paragraph of notes and reflections. They be identifiable throughout the journal and reflect an entire quarter's worth of notes.
*A great way to be sure these are present is to write them at the top of each page as you go. Ex: "Reading Reflection from Chapter 1 of Reasonable Faith" or "Video: The Origins of Life" or "Class discussion: Is Hell Real?" or "Question from the guy on the light rail about why I believe Jesus' died."

In addition they should also be present within your reflections. Example: "On page 19 (RF) it says 'we have to train our kids for war.' Is it that bad out there? I don't think I feel ready for a war." Or "John referenced an article titled 'Why God is no different from Santa' I never thought about researching the oppositions readings. I need to do a better job of knowing the differing opinions. I would not have been prepared to refute that."

- 25 points for student provided additional resources (Wednesday homework)
 - There are references and notes included from sources outside of class reading that show student research was conducted weekly in preparation for class discussions. Readings or videos are clearly cited and a brief explanation provided.
- 25 points for student reflection
 - The content of the journal shows that the student is posing questions, concerns, answers, confirmation and objections to what is read, heard, or discussed.
 - There is evidence of more than just rephrasing/ rewriting what was heard and read. Engagement and a clear investment in learning the material deeper should be present in the journal.

*If you have concerns about whether you are meeting these requirements, schedule a meeting with the instructor outside of class time for a journal review. This should be done well in advance of the quarter's end.

This should go without saying, but be sure to keep track of your journal and documentation as it should be turned in as one book not a collection of random papers with no order. It is not a bad idea to take photos of each journal page when completed so you have a backup.