

SENIOR THESIS GUIDE

Description

The senior thesis project challenges you to think and pray through your basic theological beliefs, which comprise the foundation of your worldview (German *Weltanschauung*); a defense of your approach to a given topic or issue (*Apologia*, Latin for “defense”), based on your stated worldview; and the calling or vocation (Latin *Vocare*) which you believe God may have outlined for you. Your written thesis will express these personal beliefs, views, and plans in a formally-developed way. During your end of the year class Thesis Speech you will have the opportunity to present your *Vocare* and *Apologia* to the class.

Formatting

You will use Turabian formatting with the notes-bibliography style of citation while employing endnotes.

THESIS TABLE OF CONTENTS (not written in this order)

Cover Page (not included in page count; formatted as modeled in Turabian format)

Abstract (titled as such and not included in the page count; constructed as the last piece of the thesis)

Summarize the issue(s) of your thesis. The abstract should be about half ($\frac{1}{2}$) a page long and be composed entirely of your own succinct words. The abstract should effectively summarize and crystallize your paper’s salient points. The abstract tends to answer the question “How?” in regards to the paper. Tell the main points of your paper, how you supported them, where you did research, etc. Think “cut and dried” language.

Introduction (titled as such and is included in the page count; constructed as the last piece of the thesis)

Building upon the foundation of the institutional mission and objectives of Brazos Christian School, create a paradigmatic construct of your Christian *Weltanschauung* (“worldview”).

This section should be less than one page long and contain a strong and precise thesis statement. That statement is to address each of the three major sections of the paper. The introduction differs from the abstract in that it focuses on answering the question, “Why is this paper important or significant?”

Chapter 1. *Weltanschauung*: What is truth? (first writing assignment)

Delineate, detail, and defend your views of orthodox Christianity using the following four or five *loci* (singular “locus”) of a biblical theology. First, however, open the *Weltanschauung* with a **prolegomena**.

- **Prolegomena:** This is a personal introduction to your paper written in 1st person present tense. Tell the reader how *you* construct your theology: From what sources do you draw? Why is it important that you would conduct such research?
 - The prolegomena then flows into the Bibliology. See model thesis.

Loci Specifications:

- Your treatment of **each** of the loci should include three (3) pertinent Scripture references plus at least two (2) different resources.
- Each locus should be dealt with in a thorough but concise manner.
- Though you may refer to and cite scriptural support for your position on some of the controversial issues within the church, debating controversial issues should not be the focus.
- Each locus must contain the answers to at least half of the proposed questions. 2 out of 4 or 2 out of 3.
- Each locus should clearly and straightforwardly state your beliefs and positions on the particular focus topic (locus) of study.
- Each locus should be half ($\frac{1}{2}$) to three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) of a page per locus thus making this chapter of the thesis approximately 3 - 4 pages long.

1. Bibliology

- a. Is the Bible truly God's Word?
- b. What is the canon of Scripture?
- c. What does it mean that the Bible is inspired?
- d. Does the Bible contain errors, contradictions, or discrepancies?
- e. Is there proof for the inspiration of the Bible?

2. Theology (focusing on the Trinity and God the Father)

- a. Who is God?
- b. Is there an argument for the existence of God?
- c. What are the attributes of God? What is God like?
- d. What does the Bible say about the Trinity?
- e. Is God sovereign, or do we have a free will?

3. Anthropology

- a. What does it mean that humankind is made in the image and likeness of God (Gen. 1:26-27)?
- b. Do we have two or three parts? Are we body, soul, and spirit—or body and soul/spirit?
- c. What is the difference between the soul and spirit (if there is one)?
- d.

4. Hamartiology

- a. What is the definition of sin?
- b. Did we all inherit sin from Adam and Eve?
- c. What is the extent of our depravity?
- d. Are all sins equal to God?
- e.

5. Soteriology

- a. How are we saved?
- b. Is salvation eternal, or can it be lost?
- c. Is salvation by faith alone, or by faith plus works? What role do works play in salvation?
- d. Is baptism required for salvation? What is baptismal regeneration?
- e. What is repentance? Is it necessary for salvation?

Chapter 2. *Apologia*: What is a reasonable defense of truth engaging a particular theological cultural contra-indicator? (the third writing assignment)

Articulate an apologetic for one (1) theological issue concomitant to your biblical, Christian *Weltanschauung* and *Vocare*. See “A List of Potential *Apologia* Topics” handout for further possibilities.

A short list of possibilities follows:

- The existence of God
- The origin of the universe
- The right role of government
- The validity of absolute truth (an answer to postmodernity)
- The historicity of the resurrection of Jesus.
- The authenticity, accuracy, and authority of Scripture.
- Stewardship of the earth’s resources
- A justification of belief in miracles
- Western consumerism
- Biomedical research (stem cells, eugenics)
- A Christian approach to ...

***Apologia* Specifications:**

- Your treatment of this section must include at least seven (7) Scripture references.
- You are responsible to research the topic *thoroughly* in order to address it in a systematic manner using at least three (3) appropriate resources in addition to the seven Scripture references.
- The *Apologia* should cover approximately four (4) pages.

Chapter 3. *Vocare*: What might God want me to be and do in light of the truth? (the second writing assignment)

Integrate a proposed professional path with the aforementioned worldview and defense.

***Vocare* Specifications:**

- This section may incorporate information received from an optional interview. Research from at least *three (3) total resources* must be utilized. **The interview may count as a resource and is considered extra credit.**
- Research data, statistics, descriptions of daily routines, and difficulties.
- Offer an informed description of this particular vocation and why you are drawn to it. How do you see that God has uniquely made you to pursue this particular field?
- Tell us how you will pursue a career “Christianly” based on the vocation research as well as the truths stated in the *Weltanschauung*.
- The *Vocare* should be approximately three (3) to four (4) pages.

Conclusion (titled as such and is included in the page count; constructed as the last piece of the thesis)

Restate the impetus of your thesis. This section should be no longer than one half of one page and should be different verbiage than the Abstract. It will include a “look to the future” as you wrap up your thesis.

Endnotes (titled NOTES, compiled and constructed throughout the duration of writing the thesis)

Each Chapter (1, 2, and 3) will have a separating title within the endnotes. See model and instructions for formatting this page. Bible verse references do not belong in the Endnotes. They are to be parenthetically cited.

Bibliography (titled as such, not to be confused with the Bibliology locus; compiled and constructed throughout the duration of writing the thesis; see model and instructions for formatting this page)

This is a complete compilation of all of your resources including any interviews possibly used. Resources are listed alphabetically as one complete unit, not by chapters.

OTHER NOTES:

- The NOTES and BIBLIOGRAPHY page entries are formatted differently.
- Altogether, your paper should refer to **at least ten (10) different resources** from which you have gleaned **relevant** information.
- Optional: One of those resources may be an individual (not a family member or Brazos Christian employee) with whom you have conducted an interview. The subject of that interview should be the incorporation of faith in the profession of your choice. +3 points on rough draft and +5 on final Thesis.
- You may use **no more than one (1) Internet web based resource**. The remainder of your research is to be from books, journals, databases, additional interviews, etc.(all of which you may access via Internet). Try to avoid drawing a large portion of your research from any Internet web based source.
- All research should be properly cited, both in the text with superscript numerals, in the Endnotes page, and in the Bibliography page, according to Turabian format.
- All titles of pages should be in all caps. Ex. INTRODUCTION or CHAPTER 1: WELTANSCHAUUNG
- The paper’s total length in general is to be between twelve (12) and sixteen (16) pages. This *does not include* the title page, abstract, endnotes or bibliography.

BENCHMARKS AND DUE DATES:

Chapter 1: *Weltanschauung* (Include endnotes and bibliography with each assignment at turn in)

Prolegomena	15 September
Bibliology (rough)	29 September
Theology (rough)	27 October
Anthropology(rough)	17 November
Hamartiology (rough)	8 December
Soteriology	19 December

Vocare summary and corresponding *Apologia* topic proposal 19 January

Chapter 3: *Vocare* (rough) 9 February

Chapter 2: *Apologia* (rough) 23 March

Conclusion, introduction, abstract (rough) 6 April

Final draft (including endnotes and bibliography) 20 April

Vocare/*Apologia* Class Speech 3 - 4 May

All final drafts MUST be submitted

1. to Turnitin.com AND
2. in hardcopy form to Mrs. Lee by 11:59pm on the due dates.

Email questions to Mrs. Lee at clee@bcseagles.org

ORA ET LABORA

PRAY AND WORK.