

## STUDENT WRITING EXPECTATIONS

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### *Style Manuals and Writing Assistance*

Students at the School of Theology and Ministry generally submit papers with footnote and bibliographical citations in one of two forms. Students in the Pastoral Counseling Degree submit papers with citations in APA (American Psychological Association) format delineated by the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. Other students submit papers with citations in CMS (Chicago Manual of Style) format delineated by *The Chicago Manual of Style: The Essential Guide for Writers, Editors, and Publishers*. The basic rules for these style formats may be found at the following websites:

#### **APA**

<http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/>

(Diana Hacker website – under social sciences)

#### **CMS**

<http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/>

(Diana Hacker website – under history)

or

[http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)

(CMS website)

At times students need assistance with the writing process itself. In addition to face-to-face assistance offered by Seattle University's Writing Center (McGoldrick Learning Commons 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor), two websites offer online assistance with writing. These sites assist the writer in conceiving the project, developing a thesis statement, creating an outline, writing a paragraph, employing appropriate grammar and sentence structure, and so forth. They also provide resources for those for whom English is a second language. For online assistance with the writing process, consult:

- **Seattle University Writing Center**  
<http://www.seattleu.edu/writingcenter/>  
(under Resources)
- **Purdue Writing Center**  
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

### *Types of Writing Used in STM Papers*

#### Reflective

The center of attention in this kind of writing is your own experience. It seeks out significant moments, tries to find the narrative thread that holds such experiences together, looks for personal insights into that experience, and relates your reflection on your experience to the themes of the course for which you are writing the paper.

#### Research

The center of attention in this type of writing is historical events, biographical narrative, the development and cohesion of lines of thought of significant thinkers. Your reflections on this are not the key. What you want to present is an accurate account of what objectively happened. Your professor may ask for your reflections on the material, but that should come only after you have clearly presented the objective material.

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### Synthesis

The center of attention in this type of writing is the thought of another person or group of people (a school of thought). Like a research paper the emphasis is on the objective presentation of their thought. But as a writer, you begin to enter the picture by summarizing their thought, pointing out the central ideas, showing the development in their thinking, and offering a critique (positive and negative) of their thought

### Constructive

The center of attention in this type of writing is your own developing thought on a topic. Given the nature of STM, the topic would probably be in an area of theology or spirituality. Your thought should be rooted in experience, your own and that of others, so that it might provide insight into that experience. You might use and even quote other significant thinkers, but in this type of paper you dialogue with their thinking in order to develop your own thought on the matter.

### Clinical / Pastoral

The center of attention in attention in this type of writing is professional skill. It usually calls for a description of a key encounter in a pastoral or clinical setting and then your reflection on how well you used the pastoral and/or clinical skills you are developing in your degree program. You might use and quote the thought of others and reflect theoretically on the situation you relate, but the key to the paper is how you are developing the skills you need to be an effective minister or counselor.