

SCTR 15 • Texting God
Exercise #3 • Interpreting the Story

Research Paper Rubric

Name: _____

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Objective	Unacceptable	Marginal	Acceptable	Exemplary	Score
Quality and Control of Material	Your question or issue is neither focused nor significant. Paper reads like a list of citations with no conceptual thread governing their presentation. Synthesis and analysis of material lacking.	Your question is significant but could be more focused, or is focused but not terribly significant. There is a question and thesis or descriptive agenda for the paper set out in the introduction, but the paper doesn't deliver on its promises. Synthesis and analysis of material lacking.	Your question is significant and fairly well focused. Your idea or thesis or flow of argument sometimes gets lost, or argument follows the sources too heavily. Good synthesis and analysis of material.	Your thesis is clear and controls the flow of the paper. You cover all required parts of the assignment. The argument is original and insightful, moving beyond any given source to a perspective informed but not governed by the sources used. Strong synthesis and analysis of material.	3
Comprehension and Integration of Sources	Discussion of quotations or references indicates poor comprehension of them. Some citations dropped in to paper but not introduced or discussed (you need to show the reader exactly how they relate to your argument). Serious problems with citations in notes and/or bibliography. Sources are not professional and/or do not go far beyond required class readings.	Comprehension of sources is adequate, but there are some problems in how you've integrated them in your paper, such as lack of appropriate correlation to your argument in that particular paragraph, or inadequate citation. Some sources are not professional/peer-reviewed.	Good selection, comprehension and citation of the sources, but the integration into your argument could be improved.	Excellent selection and critical comprehension of professional sources. Citations never overtake paragraph, but are well introduced and their implications for your argument are discussed clearly. All source references and quotations are cited properly in notes.	3
Depth of Cross-cultural Comparison	You do not discuss the historical context of the original biblical author, or fail to use a professional commentary on your chosen book or genre of scripture. You basically write a paper about a modern film, with little attention to how the medium shapes the message or the historical context shapes the interpretation.	You identify the author of your biblical passage but don't give much attention to the historical context of that author. You focus too heavily on the modern cultural "artifact," offering some account of how our modern circumstance affects the interpretation, but doing very little comparison with the ancient global context.	You give some attention to the original cultural context of the biblical author(s), but could go deeper. You explain how the medium of your current cultural "artifact" alters the interpretation of the biblical message. You compare the cultural contexts then and now to explain the change in interpretation, but only superficially.	Your analysis of the original cultural context is accurate and well-sourced in a biblical commentary. You explain how the medium (e.g., app, film) of your current cultural "artifact" alters the interpretation of the biblical message. You compare the cultural contexts then and now to explain the change in interpretation.	4
Thoughtfulness of Reflection	You do not offer a thoughtful reflection comparing your initial perspective to your concluding beliefs.	You offer some thoughtful reflection on how you configure the sacred, but don't compare your perspective to one with which you started the course.	You write a few sentences about how your thoughts have (or have not) changed since the beginning of the course.	You reflect thoughtfully and honestly about how you configure the sacred.	3
Clarity of Expression	Poor grammar and spelling seriously impede effective communication.	Grammar and spelling are a problem, but your ideas are nevertheless apparent.	Occasional grammar and spelling problems, but good variation in sentence styles.	No grammar and spelling errors. Good variety of sentence styles.	4
Format and Style	Failure to conform paper to Style Sheet.	Some serious problems in notes, bibliography, margins, or type face size.	Margins, type face and general format fine; some problems with note or bibliography style.	Paper conforms to Style Sheet.	2
Timely Submissions	Stages of paper chronically late or incomplete. <i>[At this point, the overall grade will be affected, rather than just this objective.]</i>	A few stages late or incomplete.	One stage submitted late or incomplete.	All stages submitted on time and complete.	1