

Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary
Writing Workshop for incoming D.Min. Students
June 5-6, 2023
5:00 PM to 9:00 PM

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Workshop Description

The workshop is designed to assist Doctor of Ministry students to become acclimated and familiar with critical tools for writing at the doctoral level. Students will receive general information about theological writing that will be helpful as they move towards the Doctoral Project. Pre and post assessment of each student's writing will take place. Students' writing will be carefully evaluated in the workshop to help determine specific areas of need. Reading and writing will occur within the workshop in an effort to determine potential strengths and problem areas of students. The writing workshop will review *Writing Guidelines* from the ACTS Doctor of Ministry in Preaching Program Manual with attention to style and format found in Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*.

Significant attention will be given to academic writing regarding gender-inclusive language, use of verb tense, historical perspective, and *plagiarism*.

Students will also learn helpful lessons to increase their effectiveness in writing. These will include; identifying problem areas, establishing a time to write on a daily basis, creating a support system for time management and writing, accountability support and consistent feedback.

Goals

Students will learn that preparing for and writing the Doctoral Project requires specific writing skills that are unlike sermon preparation, casual writing or op-ed articles.

Students will gain skills in identifying excellent writing by reviewing the readings completed in the workshop.

Students will recognize any problem areas in their own writing and establish a guideline and timeline for correcting these problems as the D.Min. Program begins.

Students will set personal writing goals for themselves that will be measured and accomplished throughout the Doctor of Ministry Program.

Workshop Outline

Students will submit a three page paper one week before the workshop. The paper will be on a topic related to any current work in their church setting. The paper will include; brief theological reflection, brief social setting description, description of individuals related to the work, the goal of the work and its outcome. Students will work on this paper over the two day workshop. Each session will begin with a reading from sample writings followed by a brief discussion.

Pre-workshop assignment

Send a copy of a recent sermon you have written (within the last three months). Make sure it is double-spaced.

Send a copy of an op-ed, article for a local newspaper or church bulletin. Make sure it is double-spaced.

Day One Monday, June 5, 2023

Introductions

Reading of sample work

Purpose of the Workshop and Overview of the Outline

Writing Standards

Discussion about plagiarism.

Discussion about historical perspective.

Discussion inclusive language

Write a one page reflection paper on how you feel about your writing skills entering the Doctor of Ministry Program.

Reading of sample work

Assignment- From *Once in a Lifetime, A Journal* by Michael Nabors

Read the first 10 pages.

Discussion about the reading assignment as well as the importance of writing as a critical communication tool for clergy.

Summary

Day Two Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Writing assignment- Using material from the assigned reading, write a one to two page reflection on the chapter, Imagination.

Reading of sample work

Reading Assignment 2 A Pastor's Pen Article from January 1, 2023

Discussion about the reading assignment

Overview of assigned writing papers for the D.Min. degree.

- 1) What Research is
- 2) Defining Your Topic
- 3) First Draft
- 4) Revisions
- 5) Find a writing coach/tutor now*

The professor will make recommendations to each student regarding their projected writing level for entering the D.Min. program while sharing resources.

Conclusion