

WRITING IN SEMINARY GRADUATE STUDIES

A RESOURCE PROVIDED BY THE LPTS ACADEMIC SUPPORT CENTER (ASC)



The purpose of seminary graduate student writing is to cultivate disciplined theological thinking, intellectual inquiry, and faithful scholarship. It is composed of careful, evidence-based argument rooted in Scripture, tradition and scholarly research.

Begin with a Clear, Arguable Thesis:

A strong thesis:

- Expresses a specific claim, beyond stating the topic

Topic: This paper will discuss justification in Paul.

Claim: Paul's doctrine of justification in Galatians is fundamentally covenantal rather than narrowly legal, as demonstrated by his appeal to Abraham in Galatians 3.

Seminary graduate student writing requires you to:

- Identify major scholars in the discussion
- Represent opposing views fairly
- Use evidence from Scripture and secondary sources
- Demonstrate awareness of historical and theological context

Effective graduate student writing answers these questions:

- What have others argued?
- Where does my argument agree or disagree?
- Why does this matter for the discipline?

Ideas should move beyond summary into evaluation and synthesis:

- Summary answers: What does this author say?
- Argument answers: Is this author persuasive, and why?

Each paragraph should:

- Make one clear claim
- Provide evidence
- Explain how the evidence supports the thesis

Supporting evidence should avoid:

- Excessive proof-texting
- Unsupported assertions
- Vague generalizations

Practice responsible use of sources:

- Distinguish clearly between quotation, paraphrase, and your own analysis.
- Record full citation details, including page numbers for exact quotations.
- Cite whenever you rely on another scholar's idea - not just for direct quotes.
- Follow the required citation style (e.g., Turabian, APA).

Strong writing emerges through revision:

- Aim for clarity and respect for opposing views.
- Check for sufficient evidence for claims and logical flow of ideas.
- Remove overgeneralization, wordiness and informal phrasing.
- Verify citations and cite page numbers for exact quotations.

A Final Encouragement:

Good writing reflects careful reading, careful thinking, and careful love for truth.

ASCResource_20260423

The Academic Support Center (ASC) supports students with various aspects including:

- Academic Writing
- Study Skills
- Academic Honesty
- Strategic Reading
- Ordination Support
- Career Mapping
- Citation Support
- ADA Academic Accommodation
- Critical Thinking & Analytical Skills Development



LISA LIAS
MANAGER, ACADEMIC
SUCCESS CENTER
LLIAS@LPTS.EDU



SUSAN KANTER
ASC WRITING COACH/
TUTOR
SKANTER@LPTS.EDU



ELI MEGIBBEN
ASC WRITING COACH/
TUTOR
EMEGIBBEN@LPTS.EDU



The ASC is a drop-in center located in the E.M. White Library, Room 108, and also available by appointment in person/online!

Or Scan to
Book Directly!

