

Final Performance Task Options for Unit 6

Important Information for Both Options

The following are the main ideas that you are to understand from this unit. They should appear in this final performance task so your teacher can assess whether you learned the most essential content:

- The Fifth Commandment demands that people respect and protect human life in all its stages from conception through natural death.
- The Church speaks out for the defense of human life when it is most vulnerable, especially in the womb and near the end of life.
- Christ's Law of Love calls people to reject revenge and retaliation and to engage in the challenge of becoming a peacemaker.
- Love of self is a fundamental principle of Christian morality, calling people to take care of their physical and spiritual health.

Option 1: Write a Research Paper

Write a three-page research paper on one of the issues involving respect for life addressed in this unit of study: abortion, euthanasia, genetic engineering, stem cell research, suicide, just war, death penalty, or a topic related to personal health. Follow these steps:

- Review each of the issues presented in this unit, and decide on one issue you would like to address in greater depth.
- Examine the course readings and class notes that address this issue, and write down questions you need to pursue to more fully understand the issue.
- Identify reliable sources of information that can add to your understanding of the issue and search them for opinions, facts, and statistics. Include both secular and Catholic resources. Web searches will lead you to articles and statistics related to your issue. Be sure to search the Vatican Web site and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Web site for documents that address the issue.
- Research official Catholic teaching on the issue, especially from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. The *Catholic Encyclopedia* can also be very helpful for this. In your research examine the Church's response to the issue and how we as Church are called to act in justice and solidarity.
- Write a rough draft of your research, noting the key understandings that apply to your issue. If you have not integrated all the key understandings in addressing the one issue, add a summary paragraph explaining how all the key understandings are relevant in addressing the practice of respecting life.
- Rewrite and edit a final copy, including a works cited page listing the resources you have used.



Option 2: Prepare a Student Panel Discussion

Prepare a four-person panel discussion on four respect-for-life issues, including all four key understandings in this unit of study. Follow these steps:

- Arrange a meeting with the four students in your group, and identify the four issues your group would like to address. Each member of your group must choose one of the topics to research.
- As a group, examine the course readings and class notes that address the issues you chose. Create a list of six significant questions that explore each of the four issues in greater depth, such as the definition of the issues; the complexity of the issues in today's society; arguments used by people on both sides of the issues; the Church's response to the issues; and what individuals and communities can do to encourage respect for life in light of these issues.
- Each individual member of the group should research the panel questions as they pertain to his or her chosen issue, noting the sources of the information used for the research. Identify reliable sources of information that can add to your understanding of the issue, and search them for opinions, facts, and statistics. Include both secular and Catholic resources. Web searches will lead you to articles and statistics related to your issue. Be sure to search the Vatican Web site and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Web site for documents that address the issue.
- Research official Catholic teaching on the assigned issue, especially from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. The *Catholic Encyclopedia* can also be helpful for this. In this research examine the Church's response to the issue and how we as Church are called to act in justice and solidarity.
- Each member should write responses to the panel's list of questions on index cards that can be used during the panel presentation, noting the sources of the responses. Group members may use visual aids such as charts or posters to strengthen their presentation. Each student should prepare a summary statement for her or his presentation on the significance of the principle of respect for life in living a Christian moral life.
- Arrange for the group to meet a second time once this research is complete so that the group can prepare for the panel discussion. The questions for each presentation can be divided among the panelists. For example, each of three panelists will question the fourth panelist who is presenting on an issue; the process would be repeated for all four presentations by panel members. Review the content and check for all key understandings.
- Schedule with your teacher the presentation of your panel discussion to the class.

