

Final Performance Task

Options for Unit 8

Important Information for Both Options

The following are the main ideas 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.

- Jesus charged the Twelve Apostles with responsibility for spreading the Good News.
- The early Apostles were servant leaders who carried word of the New Covenant in their ministries.
- Paul (originally named Saul) influenced the development of the early Christian Church through his traveling ministry and by the letters he left behind.
- These Pauline letters help us to understand how the Christian community made a transition from Judaism to embrace non-Jewish converts.

Option 1: Research One of Paul's Epistles to Share

Paul is one of the most—if not *the* most—influential person in early Christianity because of the overwhelming amount of writing he did. It is difficult to fully understand what it means to be a Christian if you do not understand who Paul was and his contributions to Christianity. For this option, you will research one of Paul's letters, write your answers to the questions below, and create a visual way to share your research with your classmates.

Your teacher will assign you an epistle for this performance task. Answer the following questions about that epistle:

1. Which epistle did you research?
2. When was it written?
3. Is your epistle a primary or secondary letter of Paul?
4. If you have a secondary letter, who is the most likely author?
5. Is your letter a Pauline letter or a catholic letter?



6. Does your letter contain all the elements of a traditional Pauline letter?
7. If yes, how can you tell? Cite at least one example from each element.
8. If not, what is missing?
9. What is the message or purpose of your letter?
10. What issues face the readers of the letter, and how does the author attempt to address them?

Present your answers to these questions through some visual means such as a poster, slide show, PowerPoint presentation, multimedia presentation, and so on, as well as in a written report of about two double-spaced pages as a Word document.

Option 2: Writing a Letter to People Today Using Paul's Style and Concerns

Each of Paul's letters addressed or responded to concerns or problems in a particular community. For this option you will identify a specific community's issues and then write a Pauline-like letter to address these concerns or problems.

- Use Paul's letter-writing formula to write a two-page double-spaced "Pauline letter" to a modern community of your choice. (You can use the Letter to the Thessalonians as a model of Paul's style.)
- Identify a concern facing your community, which might be the school, neighborhood, household, city, country, and so on.
- Address this concern and offer advice to solve it.
- Draw from Paul's interpretation of Jesus' teachings.
- After you finish your letter, your teacher will invite you to share your concerns and solutions with the other students.

