

Final Performance Task Options for Unit 6

Important Information for All 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.

- Prayer is a deep, personal relationship with God that involves both talking and listening with an open heart.
- There is a rich tradition of prayer in the Catholic Church, which is experienced through a variety of forms and expressions.
- Prayer can be experienced as either personal or communal, and both of these aspects of prayer are important to Christians.
- The Lord's Prayer is a key prayer because it summarizes all we need to live the Christian life.

Option 1: Nine-Day Novena

Participate in a nine-day novena and keep a journal of your experience. Use this time as an opportunity to offer a personal petition to God for a particular need. A nine-day novena offered by a Catholic parish would be best, but a private novena is acceptable. You can find a variety of novenas on the Internet. Keep a journal to be turned in to your teacher at the end of the novena. In your journal identify your petition and the forms of prayer you used and then describe what this experience was like for you. Explain how your experience was related to the key understandings of the unit.

Option 2: Liturgy of the Hours

Visit a local monastery that will allow you to attend its celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours. Write a reflection essay in which you describe the Liturgy of the Hours, how you felt about taking part in this communal prayer experience, and how this experience related to the key understandings of this unit. In your description include the elements of prayer that you observed and that were learned about in this unit.

Option 3: Communal Prayer

Visit a faith community other than your own and write an essay in which you compare and contrast the communal prayer of this community with your own community's prayer. Most communities, whether they are non-Catholic Christian churches, Jewish synagogues, Muslim mosques, or independent worship communities, will graciously welcome visitors. However, as a courtesy, unless you accompany a member as a guest, you should ask for permission to attend a worship service when you are not a member. While you attend this worship service, be respectful and attentive at all times. Your presence does not compromise your own beliefs, so be at ease. Listen but do not take notes during the service. When the service has ended, make a point of thanking the leader of the community for allowing you to attend. You may write down your notes and ideas when you return home. Compare and contrast this worship experience with your own tradition and note all the forms and expressions of prayer you find in both. Make sure to incorporate the key understandings of this unit when comparing and contrasting these faith traditions.

