

Final Performance Task Options for Unit 2

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 that your teacher can assess whether you learned the most essential content.

- Various exegetical methods enable us to read and interpret Scripture contextually.
- Literary criticism enables us to analyze a scriptural text by examining its genre, plot, characters, and symbolism.
- Sociohistorical criticism enables us to understand the culture and world in which a scriptural text was written.
- Ideological criticism enables us to understand how our own worldview shapes our interpretation of Scripture.

In addition to demonstrating understanding of these four main concepts of the unit, your final performance task must contain or demonstrate the following:

- In-depth, substantial content appropriate for an upper-level high school religious studies course
- Responsible and accurate use of Scripture
- Substantive content that creatively and accurately engages with and interprets the material of this unit
- Proper grammar, spelling, and diction
- A neat and well-organized presentation

Option 1: A Research Paper on the Catholic Approach to Scripture

The director of religious education of the local parish has invited you to write a research paper on the Catholic approach to Scripture that can be used as a study tool for candidates of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program. Your paper should include a basic summary of the development of Catholic biblical exegesis. In addition, the paper should conclude with a personal reflection that focuses on what you have learned about exegetical and interpretive methods and how these methods may have shifted your understanding of or approach to Scripture. The research paper should use at least three credible sources (approved by your teacher) that have not been examined in class and should be four to five pages in length.



Option 2: A Group Presentation Using Three Exegetical Tools

Your local parish has invited you and your classmates to do a presentation for an adult Bible study group on the exegetical and interpretive tools used to understand Scripture. Your presentation should include a thorough explanation of what exegesis is, as well as the three exegetical methods studied in this unit: literary criticism, sociohistorical criticism, and ideological criticism. You will choose one Gospel text. Although your group will focus on interpreting just that text, your presentation should demonstrate all three exegetical methods. Consult at least three credible sources (approved by your teacher) other than your textbook. Be sure to discuss your choice of Gospel text with your teacher before beginning work on it. Give your presentation to the class on the day designated by your teacher and prepare a written version to turn in to your teacher.

The presentation must include a visual component (such as a PowerPoint presentation, video, or handouts). The presentation should also include the following:

- an introduction that situates the passage you have chosen within the larger context of the particular Gospel in which it appears
- an overview of the major topics or questions regarding the selected passage that your presentation will explore
- an explanation of each of the three methodologies you will use to interpret the passage you have chosen—that is, literary, sociohistorical, and ideological
- an analysis of the passage from the perspective of each methodology
- a conclusion in which you apply your interpretations of the passage to some aspect of the world today, for example, a concern that many young people face, a problem your school is encountering, or a pressing matter of national or international justice
- a bibliography citing the sources you used in developing your presentation

