COM 822Persuasive Communication

“Using a new Career Paradigm to Reduce Christian Students from Losing Their Faith”

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1. Generate a thesis statement for your persuasive essay.

a. Using the OGS Forum Paper Template, complete the following:

i. Enter your essay title on the title page and the first page of the essay.

Complete the rest of the title page.

ii. Use the Thesis Statement Generator to draft a thesis statement.

Use only the “generate example” to view several examples of a well-written thesis statement.

iii. On the Thesis Statement page, enter a clear, concise thesis statement of the argumentative position.

iv. In the body of the paper, write a three-paragraph description of the topic that includes the basic logic behind your argument.

v. In the Works Cited section, enter a minimum of 11 references relevant to your topic. Include no more than two books; the remaining references should be for journal articles from a minimum of four different academic journals. Use only primary research articles with a majority of them published within the past 5 years. Include references to both support (additive) and counter (variant) your argument.

PERSUASIVE COMMUNICATION ESSAY OUTLINE #1

**“Using a new Career Paradigm to Reduce Christian Students from Losing Their Faith”**

1. Introduction:
2. Hook (Description of the problem)
3. Counterclaim & Setting the environment)
4. Last sentence Thesis Statement

The Barna Group 80% of Christian students are walking away from their faith during their college career. Developing a new Career Paradigm is imperative to reducing this statistic. The proposed paradigm 1) uses Larry Burke’s career assessment, 2) equips students to disciple at school & work, 3) assists students to write their strategic career plan, and 4) prepares students for a lifelong career.

In contrast, many religious believers support that “calling” refers only to the priesthood; and seeing vocational calling applied to all professions is a very new concept. Others see the separation of church and state to mean that schools should not use anything biblical as part of the education process.

Whereas Christian college students that are unfulfilled by their studies tend to experience “drift” (i.e., dissatisfaction, burnout), specific training will reduce “drift” given that training Christian college students in career discovery will help them be more successful students and graduates that like their work are more likely to continue in that field.

**II. MAIN ARGUMENT #1** - 80% of Christian students walk away from their faith during their college career. Churches should engage in a career ministry to prepare students for their vocational calling and equipping disciplemakers to reverse this trend; and to instead increase the number of students coming to Christ.

1. **Supporting Point #1:**  In 2021, Presley stated that **“**the church never developed a particular ‘strategy’ or ‘method’ of cultural engagement. Christians weren’t looking for the latest program or innovation to help them cope with or combat the cultural moment. Instead they focused on building the church from within” (p7).
2. **Supporting Point #2:** “It is hoped each student will be better prepared theologically, historically, and socially to express Christianity in activities that not only integrate religion in society but do it through the church in ways that transform society” (Humphrey, R.A. (2011) p 6).
3. **Supporting Point #3:** “Disciple-makers often feel ill-equipped to effectively make disciples. An opportunity exists to equip disciple-makers in the local church who will produce followers of Jesus to mature in the faith” (Smith, M.J., 2024, p. xi).

**III. MAIN ARGUMENT #2 -** Most students do not know their calling by the time they graduate high school. This sets them on a journey to “figure it out”, which can be detrimental because by the time they finish high school they should be fully prepared to enter college (professional or vocational) to train for their career.

**A. Supporting Point #1**: “People who experience a sense of calling (compared to people who do not) say they are more confident they can make good decisions about their careers, more committed to their jobs and organizations, more motivated and engaged, more satisfied with their education and their jobs, and experience a stronger sense of meaning at work” (Dik, B.J., 2023, p46).

**B. Supporting Point #2:** “Generation Z represents the largest share of the unemployed. As a result, we might think that young people would be willing to take on jobs in less-than-ideal conditions, but we find that they either refuse low wages or are unhappy with the wages they receive in relation to their work experience” (Ioan, 2023, pp. 2 - 3).

**C. Supporting Point #3:** “...these young people may be undecided about what they really want to do in the future, going to work just to spend time with friends, or staying employed for only a very short period of time where they work hard for a substantial reward” (Ioan, 2023, p2).

**IV. MAIN COUNTER ARGUMENT #3:** Christianity has no place in career development or the workplace. Work is work. People have a job to do and religion is something for off time and Sunday.

**A. Supporting Point #1:** Wightman (2023) found “personal fulfillment and a desire to help others are insufficient sources of motivation by themselves” (p.957) for working.

**B. Supporting Point #2:**  **“**The results show that financial factors such as income and business opportunities related to the major are crucial. Further, gender suitability for the job and passion are influential.” (Smith, 2024, p. 1)

**C. Supporting Point #3:** “...occupational changes do not only happen, they are even more often desired and unfulfilled” (Garthe, N., 2022, p. 2413).

**V. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS**

**A. Stating and comparing argument & counter argument.** While there are arguments for and against the use of biblical principles in developing a career development program, this paper is a proponent of using them, especially because the goal is to reduce the number of students leaving their faith while in college.

The main counter argument includes financial benefits outweighing other factors. Students that graduate value money over other satisfaction factors like personal satisfaction. In addition to satisfaction and financial gain, the literature states that people experience occupational changes, but that it is not necessarily related to career choice or satisfaction.

**VI. CONCLUSION: Frame the sociological integration of faith/religion and society**

There is a reason for the application of biblical principles to vocation and every area of our lives. Smith states that “... a true sense of vocation is rooted in the reality that there is something we must do. Think of your vocation as something you must do—even if it means you will never be famous. You are faithful to your vocation, ultimately, because you resolve to be true to yourself, for only then can you be true to your God” (p131).

In fact, “...participants’ understanding their work as akin to worship reflects a Calvinist Christian tradition and is evidently deeply meaningful and motivating to these frontline volunteers in addition to the ways that their work betters them as persons and makes a tangible contribution to the good of others and their communities” (Wightman, S., et al, 2023, p.960). This gives purpose and meaning to their work and motivates them to also volunteer. The literature review indicates that without religion, people do not have this same conviction.

Knowing and abiding by biblical work principles make a world of difference. It reduces drift, gives direction and fosters hope. For this reason alone, we should develop a new career paradigm. However, those in opposition would not support that, which is why we can also use the literature that overwhelmingly supports the use of biblical work principles because of the positive outcome. Despite the argument against Christianity.

**A. Analysis through Sociological Theory**

1. (Symbolic Interactionism: assumes a functional unity in which all parts of the system (society - institutions, roles, norms…) work together

2. Apply the chosen theory to the problem.

3. Explain how this theory aids in understanding the issue.

**B. Faith Analysis through N.T. Wright’s 7 Universal longings** Utilize NT

Wright’s “7 universal human longings” (Justice, Spirituality, Relationships,

Beauty, Freedom, Truth, Power) for analysis. Note: try to keep your choice of 7

universal longings to the one that is most pertinent to your topic of research. Broken Sign Post

**C.** Go back, revisit and restate the thesis statement as your concluding remarks.

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