COM803-12 - Hermeneutics and Communication

Acep Loi

Omega Graduate School

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Professor

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**Instructor Assigned Essay or Project**

1. Write a 5-page paper about the need for hermeneutics, or how to intelligently read

the scholarly subject literature and published social research about the topic of your

research interest. Explain why learning how to read scholarly literature is needed to

learn how to do scholarly writing about your research interest. Cite sources from the

seminal course resources and find at least two articles about a topic of your interest.

The student should direct developmental readings from Assignment #2 on the issue of

hermeneutics and a subject of their research interest for this assignment.

2. Paper Outline

a. Begin with an introductory paragraph that has a succinct thesis statement.

b. Address the topic of the paper with critical thought.

c. End with a conclusion that reaffirms your thesis.

d. Use a minimum of ten scholarly research sources (NOTE: Use at least

five books provided in course resources and the remaining scholarly

peer-reviewed journal articles).

**The Need of Hermeneutics in Scholarly Research: The Role of Leadership Modelling in Educational Ministries**

Hermeneutics is the theory and methodology of interpretation, particularly of texts. Traditionally applied to biblical interpretation, it has expanded to various fields such as education, philosophy, literature, and social sciences. Hermeneutics in a biblical context is like a journey that begins with reading the text thoroughly and carefully until one becomes able to determine what the passage meant in its biblical context to the original audience (Duvall & Hays, 2012). The same principle applies to general hermeneutics. As Adler (2011) emphasized, reading is for understanding and gaining significance, rather than getting information only. Moreover, Zimmerman (2015) stated that hermeneutics is not only a method of interpretation used in various fields of study but also a process that occurs in everyday life. The interpretation is not limited to books, but also involves the action, response, expression of friends, and many others aspects of communication. The goal of this interpretation is to grasp and understand any text or situation with the correct meaning.

Hermeneutics is crucial in scholarly research because it ensures accurate interpretation of texts, preventing misrepresentation. Misinterpretation can lead to flawed arguments and incorrect conclusions, which can undermine the credibility of academic work. As Paul and Elder (2003) noted, reading must be purposeful, requiring us to translate words into meaning. We must then take those same words and reinterpret them in the author's original intent, using our own ideas and experiences as aids. Accurately understanding a text involves analysis, evaluation, and creativity. By applying hermeneutical principles, scholars can analyze texts carefully, considering factors such as language, historical background, and authorial intent. This rigorous approach minimizes biases and helps maintain the integrity of research findings.

Furthermore, hermeneutics helps scholars understand different opinions in academic discussions. Research often requires looking at many ideas, and knowing hermeneutics helps scholars think critically about arguments and see hidden assumptions. This is very useful in studies that combine different subjects, as each subject may use different words and ideas. By learning how different viewpoints are formed, researchers can join discussions and share their ideas more effectively.

Lastly, hermeneutics helps people think more deeply by making them study sources more carefully. As Booth et al. (2016) noted that simply understanding the information from the reading reports is not sufficient, but we need to evaluate the quality of the research in order to become a critical reader. It not only connects old ideas to new situations but also helps scholars learn important lessons from the past and use them today. This link between old texts and modern research makes learning more useful and interesting. In the end, by focusing on careful reading and understanding, hermeneutics makes research better and more meaningful.

As a scholar, learning hermeneutics helps me initiate my own research on my topic of interest. Booth et al. (2016) explain that many researchers already have interest in topics that relevant to their field. As a school leader, I prefer to choose a research topic relate with my profession. My primary research focus according to my field is study of leadership modeling in educational ministries. From this interest, Hermeneutics helps scholars understand leadership theories within their historical and cultural contexts. Leadership models in education often draw from biblical and historical sources. By using hermeneutical principles, scholars can examine how leadership concepts have evolved and how they apply to modern educational settings. Contextual interpretation is essential in studying leadership because leadership styles vary across cultures and time periods. Scholars must engage critically with texts to evaluate leadership principles and how they influence educational ministry practices.

A key aspect of understanding leadership models in educational ministries is the ability to interpret leadership principles in light of specific ministry contexts. Hermeneutics encourages scholars to explore how leadership theories align with the mission, vision, and values of an educational institution. This contextual interpretation helps identify which leadership models are most effective in addressing the unique challenges and opportunities within a particular ministry setting. For example, Khadija et al. (2024) conclude in their research that the correlation between transformative leadership and teamwork skills is slightly lower than the correlation between transactional or laissez-faire leadership and teamwork skills, due to the Arab traditional culture. Their findings emphasize that cultural context plays a crucial role in shaping leadership effectiveness, highlighting the need for leaders to adapt their approaches based on the values and norms of their specific environments.

Critical engagement with scholarly literature further strengthens the application of leadership models in educational ministries. This process involves evaluating the assumptions, strengths, and limitations of various leadership theories. Scholars must assess how different leadership approaches align with biblical principles and educational best practices. Research on leadership in education highlights the importance of selecting appropriate measurement tools to analyze leadership effectiveness, as different models emphasize varying aspects of leadership styles and their impact on school dynamics (Gougas & Malinova, 2021). By applying these insights to their ministry context, educators can develop leadership strategies that are both effective and faithful to their theological convictions. This integrative approach enables educational ministries to cultivate leaders who not only possess strong leadership skills but also demonstrate servant-hearted character.

Reading scholarly literature is closely connected to effective scholarly writing. Engaging with a wide range of academic sources helps researchers build a strong foundation of knowledge while also strengthening critical thinking by exposing scholars to different viewpoints and encouraging them to question assumptions. Additionally, reading improves writing skills by providing models of academic argumentation and structure. Since most research findings are published in academic journals, where scholars present their research problems, methodologies, and analyses before discussing their implications (Pyrczak & Tcherni-Buzzeo, 2019), engaging with these sources allows researchers to develop well-supported arguments and present their ideas with greater clarity.

To write effectively about leadership modeling in educational ministries, scholars should employ several key strategies. First, synthesizing multiple sources fosters a well-rounded argument by integrating diverse perspectives rather than relying on a single viewpoint. Second, maintaining academic integrity through proper citation ensures ethical and credible research. Finally, constructing logical arguments is essential; interpretations should align with established research while also considering practical applications in ministry settings.

A critical and integrative approach to scholarly writing enables researchers to develop nuanced insights into leadership in educational ministries. Beyond summarizing existing research, scholars must identify gaps, contradictions, and areas for further exploration. Thoughtfully combining insights from multiple sources strengthens arguments and contributes meaningfully to ongoing discussions on leadership principles in ministry contexts. As Plano Clark & Creswell (2015) emphasized that engaging with research not only expands a scholar's knowledge base but also enables them to participate more effectively in policy debates and improve their professional practices.

Additionally, strong scholarly writing demands clarity, coherence, and adherence to academic conventions. Arguments should be logically structured and supported by reputable evidence. Since academic writing is formal in tone and requires careful organization to suit its purpose and audience (Oshima & Hogue, 2006), using clear and precise language enhances readability, making research accessible to a wider audience. Upholding academic integrity through proper citation reinforces credibility, while an emphasis on practical applications ensures that research findings remain relevant to ministry practitioners. By following these principles, scholars can produce insightful and ethical contributions that advance the understanding of leadership modeling in educational ministries.

As conclusion, hermeneutics is an essential tool for scholarly research, especially in fields like leadership modeling in educational ministries. It provides a structured way to interpret texts accurately, engage critically with research, and apply findings to real-world situations. Learning how to read scholarly literature is key to developing strong academic writing skills. By understanding and applying hermeneutical principles, scholars can contribute meaningful insights to their fields and ensure their research is both reliable and relevant.

**WORKS CITED**

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