

Outside your comfort zone. Outside your sphere of relationships. Into your community.

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity." 1 Timothy 4:12

Assignment: Tactics

Both Agents and Special Agents are required to complete all five assignments below:

-  1) **Partner with a Mentor – Mentor Information Form**

Objective: To connect with someone who can a) help you create, stick to, and achieve a plan to complete this program, b) act as a sounding board to develop ideas and strategies to help you achieve your goals, and c) open doors to new relationships and opportunities that take you beyond your current sphere of relationships.

Instructions: Immediately find someone to act as your mentor and meet with you several times throughout the coming year. This person should be an adult who is accessible to you and familiar with your goals for the program, but he/she **cannot** be a member of your family. Your mentor will be there to help and guide you as well as to share in your walk with God while holding you accountable for all assignments and helping to keep you on track. Have your mentor fill out and sign the Mentor Information form and send it to Headquarters. No report is required. No reports that you submit will be counted until Headquarters has received the Mentor Information form.
-  2) **Partner with a Mentor – Mentor Meetings**

Objective: To set goals and discuss plans of action.

Instructions: Meet with your mentor at least SIX times throughout the year, keeping track of all of your meetings on the Mentor Meeting form. In these meetings you should be discussing your goals that you want to accomplish before your next meeting and how you will accomplish them. When you have completed all six meetings, send a scan or photo of the form to Headquarters. No report is required.
- 3) **LEAD Experience**

Objective: To develop your writing skills by describing an experience.

Instructions: Write a 550-word minimum, 1100-word maximum report about your experience at LEAD. Include your thoughts before, during, and after the program, and how the program impacted you.
-  4) **Promote LEAD**

Objective: To step out of your comfort zone by giving a verbal presentation.

Instructions: Promote LEAD in your school, church, or at an organized event. Present to at least 10 people for a minimum of 10 minutes. If you are having trouble finding a group that large, call Headquarters and we will discuss your situation. You can also choose to promote LEAD by speaking to the students who attend an SSI Onsite. (Contact Headquarters to see whether we will be holding an Onsite in your area.) Your presentation should include explaining what LEAD is, what the program meant to you, distributing brochures (brochures are usually available in October) and/or showing a promotional video. Go to ssionline.org/promotions/ to request brochures or to see what promotional videos we have. File a report (550-1100 words) about what you did and what you learned through the experience. We encourage you to complete this assignment early enough that those listening would have time to register by March 15th and receive the early registration discount.
- 5) **Final Project: Ambassador League Experience Report**

Objective: To reflect over the past year, cement the lessons you learned, and understand the importance of pushing yourself past your comfort zone.

Instructions Write a 1100-word minimum, 2200-word maximum summary of your Ambassador League experience. Include how you grew from the program and what you took out of it. This will be the last report you write for the Ambassador League. All reports are due by August 31st.

Filing your reports: E-mail each report to amleague@ssionline.org. Send your reports in an attached Word document. Do NOT send a link for Google Docs.



Indicates a signed verification form must be completed and a scan or photo must be sent to Headquarters. Always keep verification forms for your own records.

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Mentor Information

(Required)

Objective: Establish a mentor relationship with an adult who is familiar with your goals and meet with him/her *at least six* times throughout the year for accountability, encouragement, and direction. Your mentor may not be a member of your family. The goal is to develop a mentor relationship with someone who causes you to stretch outside your comfort zone. In the past, agents in training have had state legislators, judges, county officials, and business owners as their mentors.

Instructions: Have your mentor fill out the Mentor Information form by filling it out online at <https://ssionline.org/ambassador-league/resources/> or by completing the form below and signing it at the bottom. The form can then be scanned/photographed and e-mailed to amleague@ssionline.org. ***This assignment should be completed first. No reports will be accepted until this form is received.***

Any questions? E-mail Headquarters at amleague@ssionline.org or f) 321-6233 x702.

Ambassador League Agent's name: _____

Mentor's name: _____

Relationship to mentor: _____

How long have mentor/agent known each other: _____

Mentor's address: _____

City, State, & ZIP: _____

*Mentor's e-mail: _____ Home phone: (____) _____

Mentor's title/occupation: _____

Mentor's church and church city: _____

Cell phone: (____) _____ Work phone: (____) _____

*Filling in your e-mail permits us to include you in the periodic updates we send to students. These updates will include tips on different aspects of the program as well as an update on each student's point status. All personal information is used solely by the Student Statesmanship Institute and will not be released, rented, sold, or otherwise distributed to anyone at any time for any reason.

Mentor agreement

I agree to mentor the aforementioned Ambassador League Agent. I understand that this commitment involves meeting with this person at least six (6) times in the period of September 1st through August 31st. By agreeing to be an Ambassador League mentor, I commit to providing help and guidance for this agent in training as he/she strives to complete this program and become an Ambassador for Christ and His kingdom.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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Ambassador League

Mentor Meetings

(Required)

Instructions: Meet with your mentor *at least six* times throughout the year for accountability, encouragement, and direction. Complete the information on this report, asking your mentor to sign each section. Then e-mail a scan or photograph of this form to amleague@ssionline.org.

Any questions? E-mail Headquarters at amleague@ssionline.org or call (517) 321-6233 x702.

Ambassador League Agent: _____

Mentor Name: _____

1) I certify that I met with this Agent on _____, 20____ and discussed his/her progress.

Comments: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

2) I certify that I met with this Agent on _____, 20____ and discussed his/her progress.

Comments: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Ambassador League Mentor Meetings

3) I certify that I met with this Agent on _____, 20____ and discussed his/her progress.

Comments: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

4) I certify that I met with this Agent on _____, 20____ and discussed his/her progress.

Comments: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

5) I certify that I met with this Agent on _____, 20____ and discussed his/her progress.

Comments: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

6) I certify that I met with this Agent on _____, 20____ and discussed his/her progress.

Comments: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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Ambassador League Verification Form

Tactics: Promote LEAD

E-mail your report AND a scan or photo of this form to amleague@ssionline.org
Any questions? E-mail Headquarters at amleague@ssionline.org or call (517) 321-6233 x702.

Student's Name: _____

NOTE: Verification forms are NOT to be filled out by family members or mentors. Someone else must verify your presentation. This person does not need to have any authority in what you are doing. It can even be another observer.

Requirement: Promote LEAD, Student Statesmanship Institute's summer program, to a group of at least 10 people for a minimum of 10 minutes. This presentation should include what the program is, what it meant to the student, and distribution of brochures and/or showing a promotional video.

Verification of completion (Please print or type)

Name of person verifying this activity: _____

Title and/or Position: _____

Name of Organization: _____

I certify that the student named above has completed the requirement as described above:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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Assignment: Read

Objective: To extend beyond your sphere of relationships by learning from those who have come before you and to build a framework for understanding your world.

Instructions: Read up to four books and file a report (550-word minimum, 1100-word maximum) with Headquarters.

Requirements: Agent: Three books from different categories. Special Agent: One book from EACH of the four categories.

You may not submit more than one book report per category.

CATEGORY I: Leadership Development

The Making of a Leader (Dr. J. Robert Clinton, 1988)
Do Hard Things (Alex and Brett Harris, 2008)

CATEGORY II: Cultural Influence

Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions (Greg Koukl, 2019)
How Christianity Changed the World (Alvin J. Schmidt, 2001)

CATEGORY III: Biblical Worldview

The Story of Reality: How the World Began, How it Ends, and Everything in Between (Greg Koukl, 2017)
Why I Am a Christian: Leading Thinkers Explain Why They Believe (compiled & edited by Norman Geisler & Paul Hoffman, 2001)

CATEGORY IV: American Heritage

Defending the Declaration (Gary Amos, 1989)
The Theme is Freedom: Religion, Politics, and the American tradition (M. Stanton Evans, 1994)

Things to consider:

- What was the main point the author was trying to make?
- Were there any concepts or ideas you didn't agree with? Why?
- Was the book worth reading and would you recommend it?
- How has the book made an impact on your life?
- What statement or quote in the book made an impact on you?
- Rather than spending a little bit of time on each chapter, pick two or three main points to write about.
- Make sure that the first paragraph includes the title of the book and the name of the author(s).
- Use the sample report format with the proper heading.

Filing your reports: E-mail each report to amleague@ssionline.org. Send your reports in an attached Word document. Do NOT send a link for Google Docs.

Any questions? E-mail Headquarters at amleague@ssionline.org or call (517) 321-6233 x702.

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Assignment: Biblical Research

Objective: To apply the lens of Scripture to different areas of the world around you and to develop a proper, Biblical way of thinking and approaching the world.

Instructions: Complete at least five and up to eleven Bible studies (550-word minimum, 1100-word maximum) discussing the subjects listed on the "Biblical Research Topics" page (one Bible study per topic). Each report should answer the question, "What does the Bible say about this topic?" If you only looked at Scripture, what conclusions would you come to? Ask yourself what the subject refers to and where the Bible speaks to that issue. Did Jesus speak on this? What about one of the Psalmists? Or Paul? Regardless of what you already know, try to come at the issue with fresh eyes and challenge yourself to learn something about each topic. You are allowed to use other sources (such as a thesaurus, Bible dictionary or commentary, outside articles, or a discussion with a pastor or Biblical scholar) to help you understand what you find, but start developing an understanding of what the Bible says, not what other people say the Bible says. The Bible must be your primary source, and at least 80% of your report should directly link back to a point that is supported by Scripture. Make sure to consider and include multiple scriptures on each topic. Any sources references outside the Bible should be recorded on a bibliography that is included at the end of the report. The bibliography will not count toward the word count (minimum or maximum).

Requirements: Agents: At least five Bible studies. Special Agents: Complete all eleven.

General guidelines for writing a Bible study:

- Before writing you should **read Scripture** to see what it says. Make sure you read enough of the surrounding verses so that you can understand the context of the verses you are looking into. Keep notes as you are researching. Ask yourself what the most important aspects of the topic are. If you do read sources beyond Scripture, be careful that you do not plagiarize their thoughts in your report by basically stating what you learned from them without acknowledging them as the original thinker and developer of that thought. **As much as possible, try to develop your own thoughts only from Scripture BEFORE you see what other people have to say.**
- Biblical research reports are the most academic reports required in Ambassador League. They should closely mirror a school paper. See "Tips for Writing an Academic Paper" at the back of this packet for some basic elements of writing a report.

Other requirements:

- Make sure your commentary is substantial. What you have learned from Scripture is the primary point of your report; make sure that you give us your own thoughts in your own words.
- Make sure the points you make in your report are clearly taken from and supported by Scripture. For every claim you make, you should give support for that claim. Readers need a reason to believe it. The reason can be a verse reference, but make sure that the verse is not being taken out of context and you are giving any necessary explanations to show how the verse supports the claim. Your support could be a logical connection to a previous point that was itself supported by Scripture. Ultimately, every claim you make should either be directly connected to a verse or should link to a previous point that has already been shown to be Scriptural. Although it is fine to use support from sources other than Scripture, make sure that you do not rely on outside sources instead of Scripture to make your points. The purpose of these reports is to show what Scripture says about each topic, therefore you should be using Scripture to support the claims being made in the report.

- Any time you do directly quote Scripture or another source, you **MUST** use quotation marks and indicate your source, **otherwise your report will be rejected due to plagiarism.**
- Any source (Biblical or other) that is paraphrased must be cited, and the paraphrase should not include language directly taken from the source.
- As you research, keep a list of any outside sources you reference (concordance, websites, article, etc.) and include this list in a bibliography given at the end of each report. You **MUST** include every source you referenced regardless of whether you quote or paraphrase that source in your report.
- Instead of extensively quoting Scripture in your report, take long passages and summarize them or simply give the references. You should not need to 'pad' your report with long quotes to meet the length requirement. **Only 20% of your article may be direct quotations.** (Take the number of words being quoted and divide this by the total number of words in your report. That number should be .2 or smaller.) The rest should be your own words, either analysis of what Scripture says or logical connections between points or a paraphrase of Scripture.
- The prompts are to help guide your research and give you an idea of aspects of the topic, but you do not necessarily need to answer each prompt question in your report.
- Follow the Tips for Reports (provided at the back of this packet).
- Format your header as follows:

Name: John Adams
 Assignment: Research
 *5th Report: Truth
 Submitted May 2017

*Note: The number of the report should be based on the order you turn in your reports, not the order they appear in the assignment. Even though Truth is the first topic given on the following page, it is the fifth Bible study Agent John Adams has turned in and thus the heading reads "5th report: The Nature of Man."

Filing your reports: E-mail each report to amleague@ssionline.org. Send your reports in an attached Word document. Do NOT send a link for Google Docs.

Any questions? E-mail Headquarters at amleague@ssionline.org or call (517) 321-6233 x702.

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Biblical Research Topics

- 1) **Truth**
Does truth exist according to the Bible? If so, how does the Bible define truth? Is truth relative? Who/what determines truth?
- 2) **Justice and Mercy**
Compare and contrast them. How does God exhibit each? How can God be both just and merciful?
- 3) **Nature of Man**
What aspects of man are inherent to his nature? Explore the concept of original sin as well as how man reflects the image of God.
- 4) **Blessings of the Ten Commandments**
What blessings did God establish for those who obey the Ten Commandments? Were those blessings limited to a certain group or time period? Do those blessings still apply today? Why or why not?
- 5) **Lordship of Christ**
What is Lordship? What makes Christ a Lord? What is he Lord over? People? Nature? How do His deity and humanity factor into His Lordship?
- 6) **Homosexuality**
What does the Bible say about it? Does its position change from the Old to the New Testament? Does what the Bible says still apply today? Why or why not?
- 7) **Sanctity of Life**
What makes life sacred? (What does "sacred" mean?) What has God put into place to protect life? Does the Bible show us what would happen to a society that does not respect life?
- 8) **Inspiration, Inerrancy, and Infallibility of the Bible**
What does the Bible say about itself? How was it written? Does it claim to be without error?
Note: This report should be based on what Scripture says concerning itself. It should not primarily be a research report on and external examination of the inerrancy of the Bible.

The next three topics are related to the concept of spheres of authority—the idea that different areas of our life are part of different spheres and hence are governed differently. There is the sphere of self, the familial sphere, the church sphere, the governmental sphere, etc. For example, it is not the role of the government to mandate that we should not hate our brother. Even though God commands that we love our brother, our thought life is something that should be self-governed, not monitored by the government. An understanding of sphere authorities may help you as you write the following three reports, but it is not necessary nor do you need to reference sphere authority in your reports.

- 9) **Self-Government/Self-Control**
What is man personally responsible for? Why is there a need for character, integrity, honesty, and self-governance in our world? What happens when there is a lack of self-control?
- 10) **Sanctity of Marriage**
What makes marriage sacred? (What does "sacred" mean?) What are the distinctions between marriage and other institutions/relationships? What are the purposes of marriage?
- 11) **Civil Government** (Civil Government is government that covers a people group, nation, or state, etc. The authority setting the laws for all the people living within a nation-state or a certain geographical region.)
What is the role of civil government? How much authority did God give civil government? When is the Christian required to submit to his government?

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Assignment: Observe

Objective: To be aware of the world around you and develop an understanding of the different pieces that fit together to make your community.

Instructions: Complete the assignments below and file a report (550-word minimum, 1100-word maximum) for each with Headquarters. Please note that a verification form AND a report need to be turned in and accepted in order for any of these assignments to be completed.

Requirements: Agents: Complete three of the four assignments. Special Agents: Complete all four assignments.

-  1) **Attend at least one Legislative Session AND one Committee meeting** of the State House or Senate and file **one report** and verification form on the experience. There is only one verification form for the whole experience, but it requires two signatures. File one report that covers both the legislative session and the committee meeting. You may split this observation between two days. Be aware of when the legislature is in session. The last opportunity for you to observe this will typically be in June before the legislature goes into recess for the rest of the summer. You must attend in person. Reach out to Headquarters to let us know beforehand when you will be observing. We can help answer questions or arrange a capitol staffer (typically an alumnus) to meet with you and help show you around.
-  2) **Attend one session of a judicial trial or review** in your area that is open to the public and file a report and a verification form with Headquarters on your observations. It can be any hearing held in a real courthouse with a real judge or official referee of the court. It could range from being a civil trial with a jury to a judge sentencing civil infractions. Because trials have a tendency to be cancelled or rescheduled, try to go at a time when multiple trials are being held.
-  3) **Attend a local meeting of your school board, city council, or county commission** and file a report and verification form with Headquarters on what you observed. Eligible meetings are any government meetings funded by taxpayer in which you can see how civil government is operating. The meeting should be discussing issues relevant to your community. If before the meeting you contact someone who is part of the meeting to let him know your intention of coming to observe, often you will be asked to participate in some way (leading the pledge of allegiance, opening in prayer, etc.) or you will be recognized in some way.
-  4) **Shadow A LOCAL LEADER for one day** in a field of your interest and file a report and verification form on the experience with Headquarters. Note the necessity that this be a LOCAL LEADER. "Local" means living and/or working within an hour of you. What he does should affect your community. "Leader" means having authority over or managing others in some way. This does not have to be a political leader but could be someone involved in business, media, education, factory work, or any other area that interests you. **This person should be outside your relational sphere and outside your current frame of reference (meaning you don't already have a relationship with or regularly interact with this person).** If you are interested in shadowing someone you already know, ask whether that person can recommend someone in the area who holds a similar position in that career.

Filing your reports: E-mail each report to amleague@ssionline.org. Send your reports in an attached Word document. Do NOT send a link for Google Docs. If possible, please send us any pictures of your observations and experiences for use in newsletters, website, or other publications.



Indicates a signed verification form must be completed and a scan or photo must be sent to Headquarters. Always keep verification forms for your own records.

Any questions? E-mail Headquarters at amleague@ssionline.org or call (517) 321-6233 x702.

Student Statesmanship Institute, 4407 W St. Joe Hwy, Lansing, MI 48917 ♦ (517) 321-6233 ♦ amleague@ssionline.org

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Ambassador League Verification Form

Observe: Judicial Trial or Review

E-mail your report AND a scan or photo of this form to amleague@ssionline.org
Any questions? E-mail Headquarters at amleague@ssionline.org or call (517) 321-6233 x702.

Student's Name: _____

NOTE: Verification forms are **NOT** to be filled out by family members or mentors. Someone else must verify your presence. This person does not need to have any authority in what you are doing. It can even be another observer.

Requirement: Observe a session of a judicial trial or review that is open to the public.

Verification of completion (Please print or type):

Name of person verifying this activity: _____

Position/Title: _____

I certify that the student named above has completed the requirement as described above:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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Ambassador League Verification Form

Observe: Committee Meeting and Legislative Session

E-mail your report AND a scan or photo of this form to amleague@ssionline.org
Any questions? E-mail Headquarters at amleague@ssionline.org or call (517) 321-6233 x702.

Student's Name: _____

NOTE: Verification forms are NOT to be filled out by family members or mentors. Someone else must verify your presence at the committee meeting/session. This person does not need to have any authority in what you are doing. It can even be another observer.

Requirement A: Observe a legislative committee meeting.

Verification of completion (Please print or type):

Name of person verifying this activity: _____

Position/Title: _____

I certify that the student named above has completed Requirement A as described above:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Requirement B: Observe a legislative session.

Verification of completion (Please print or type):

Name of person verifying this activity: _____

Position/Title: _____

I certify that the student named above has completed Requirement B as described above:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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Ambassador League Verification Form

Observe: Local Government Meeting

E-mail your report AND a scan or photo of this form to amleague@ssionline.org
Any questions? E-mail Headquarters at amleague@ssionline.org or call (517) 321-6233 x702.

Student's Name: _____

NOTE: Verification forms are NOT to be filled out by family members or mentors. Someone else must verify your presence at the meeting. This person does not need to have any authority in what you are doing. It can even be another observer.

Requirement: Observe a local meeting of the school board, city council, county commission, or another government meeting that funded by taxpayers.

Verification of completion (Please print or type):

Name of person verifying this activity: _____

Position/Title: _____

I certify that the student named above has completed the requirement as described above:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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Ambassador League Verification Form

Observe: Shadow a Local Leader

E-mail your report AND a scan or photo of this form to amleague@ssionline.org
Any questions? E-mail Headquarters at amleague@ssionline.org or call (517) 321-6233 x702.

Student's Name: _____

NOTE: Verification forms are NOT to be filled out by family members or mentors.

Requirement: Spend a day shadowing a local leader.

Verification of completion (Please print or type):

Name of person being shadowed: _____

Position/Title: _____

I certify that the student named above has spent the day shadowing the person listed above.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

To be completed if the person verifying is not the person who was shadowed

Please fill out name and position

Name of person verifying this activity: _____

Position/Title: _____

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Ambassador League

Assignment: Take Action

There are three types of assignments, each with different requirements: *Letters to the Editor, Interview Local Leaders, and Volunteer.*

Take Action – Letters to the Editor

Objective: To develop your opinion and engage with your community on different relevant topics.

Instructions: Write letters to the editor about issues that are currently being discussed, are relevant to your community, or are having an impact on your community. You can also write to call people to action, for example, to encourage them to participate in a program like Ambassador League. If you are responding to an article or letter to the editor recently published in that news source, your letter is more likely to be published. You may write the same letter to several publications, but **only one copy of each letter** will qualify for points. Letters must be at least 150 words long. Check with the publication for maximum word count. When submitting your letter to the editor to Headquarters, **include in the header what publication you sent it to** and which letter to the editor it is (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.). See the Sample Header page. You may NOT submit letters anonymously to be counted toward your points. Be sure to always include your age as it will help with getting published. Send us the link or the hard copy if your letter is published!

Requirements: Agent: Submit at least three different letters. Special Agent: Submit five different letters.

Take Action – Interview Local Leaders

Objective: To meet influential people in your community and learn what leaders do and how leaders think.

Instructions: Interview local leaders from different occupations. Note the necessity that this be a LOCAL LEADER. "Local" means living and/or working within an hour of you. What he does should affect your community. "Leader" means having authority over or managing others in some way. This might be in a specific field or in a non-professional way. This could be in politics, business, media, education, factory work, or any other area. **This person should be outside your relational sphere and outside your current frame of reference (meaning you don't already have a relationship with or regularly interact with this person).** Write a report (550-word minimum, 1100-word maximum) of each interview. The report should contain a biographical sketch of the person interviewed (preferably in the opening paragraph) that includes at least the person's job and what makes this person a leader. The biographical sketch, which shouldn't be more than 20% of the report, can be written by you using information you learned from the interview or it can be a biography that you found at another source. If you take the biography word for word from another source, be sure to use quotation marks and cite the source. You can also paraphrase the information, but be sure that you know how to paraphrase so that you don't plagiarize, and YOU STILL NEED TO CITE YOUR SOURCE.

Requirements: Agents: Complete at least three interviews. Special Agents: Complete five.

General guidelines for interviewing local leaders:

- Look for leaders both in fields that you are interested in and in fields with which you are unfamiliar.
- Here are some ideas of questions to start your interview:
 - What makes you a leader?
 - How would you define a good leader?
 - What motivated you to seek your current position?
 - What training do you think is important to prepare for your position?
 - What are the greatest rewards of your job?
 - What are the biggest challenges?

- What role, if any, does your faith play in your profession?
- You may ask questions beyond your interviewee's job. Feel free to ask about family, past jobs, or anything else you are curious about.
- The body of the report can be a transcription of the interview or a summary of the information that was given during the interview.

Take Action – Volunteer

Objective: To go somewhere and do something that you haven't done yet. To engage in your community and world.

Instructions: Volunteer a minimum 10 hours each for the different types of organizations described below. If you already volunteer for a group that qualifies, look for a different group to volunteer for. The goal is to take you out of your current comfort zone and sphere of relationships. File a 550-word minimum, 1100-word maximum report and send in your signed verification form for each type of volunteering. If you split up your volunteering hours, do not send in your verification forms until you have volunteered all 10 hours.

Requirements: Agents: Volunteer for two different types of organizations. Special Agents: Volunteer for each of the three different types.



Volunteer at least 10 hours for a Non-Profit Organization (at least 5 hours being with an organization primarily seeking to serve the community's underprivileged, poor, at risk, or otherwise challenged individuals)

At least half of your hours for a non-profit organization should be with an organization that seeks to serve people or to meet a need of some sort. Groups that could fit this category include Habitat for Humanity, the Salvation Army, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, a city rescue mission, a crisis pregnancy center, or a homeless shelter. *You may NOT count volunteering at your own church or on a mission trip.* **You must contact Headquarters before volunteering to make sure the organization falls within the non-profit criteria. Once the organization is approved, you will be given the verification form.**



Volunteer at least 10 hours for a local or state Public Policy Action Group

A public policy action group is an issue-oriented institution organized around a certain social policy. Their core issues are based on supporting or affecting policies related to certain issues or affecting public opinion about those issues. They might achieve their goals by seeking to change a law or putting issues on the ballot for people to vote on, or by educating the public and calling them to action. What they do affects our society's laws. Examples of public policy action groups include Citizens for Traditional Values, Right to Life, Americans for Prosperity, Students for Life, Tea Party groups, the Sierra club, Pheasants Anonymous, the National Rifle Association, and Michigan Family Forum. In your report, make sure to mention the impact the group you chose has on society. **You must contact Headquarters before volunteering to make sure the organization falls within the public policy action group criteria. Once the organization is approved, you will be given the verification form.**



Volunteer at least 10 hours for a Political Campaign

Work on one or more political campaigns (for a candidate) or ballot proposals (issue voted on by the public). You may not count working at the polls for an election toward fulfilling this assignment. If you are going to volunteer for multiple campaigns, be sure to make a copy of the verification form or print off extra forms from the website.

Filing your reports: E-mail each report to amleague@ssionline.org. Send your reports in an attached Word document. Do NOT send a link for Google Docs. If possible, please send us any pictures of your experiences for use in newsletters, website, or other publications.



Indicates a signed verification form must be completed and a scan or photo must be sent to Headquarters.

Always keep verification forms for your own records.

Outside your comfort zone. Outside your sphere of relationships. Into your community.
"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity." 1 Timothy 4:12

Ambassador League Verification Form

Take Action: Volunteer for a Political Campaign

E-mail your report AND a scan or photo of this form to amleague@ssionline.org
Any questions? E-mail Headquarters at amleague@ssionline.org or call (517) 321-6233 x702.

Student's Name: _____

NOTE: Verification forms are NOT to be filled out by family members or mentors. Someone else must verify your volunteer work. This person does not need to have any authority in what you are doing. It can even be another observer.

Requirement: Volunteer for a political campaign or ballot issue.

Verification of completion (Please print or type):

Name of person verifying this service activity: _____

Position/Title: _____

I certify that the student named above has *(give a description of service/activity)*: _____

For (name of candidate or campaign): _____

Number of volunteer hours: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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Ambassador League Verification Form Take Action: Volunteer for a Non-Profit Organization

STOP

Carefully read the following before volunteering for a non-profit organization.

This packet does not contain the verification form for volunteering for a non-profit organization. In order to obtain the verification form you must have the non-profit organization approved by Headquarters. Call or e-mail Headquarters to explain what non-profit organization or organizations you would like to volunteer for. At least half of the 10 hours must be with an organization that serves the community's underprivileged, poor, at risk, or otherwise challenged individuals. Once Headquarters approves the organization(s), you will be e-mailed the verification form. If you volunteer for the organization before having the organization approved by Headquarters, the hours may not be able to be counted toward this assignment.

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Ambassador League Verification Form

Take Action: Volunteer for a Public Policy Action Group

STOP

Carefully read the following before volunteering for a public policy action group.

This packet does not contain the verification form for volunteering for a public policy action group. In order to obtain the verification form you must have the organization approved by Headquarters. Call or e-mail Headquarters to explain what organization you would like to volunteer for and how this organization seeks to affect public policy either through legislative action or by educating the public on an issue. Once Headquarters approves the organization, you will be e-mailed the verification form. If you volunteer for the organization before having the organization approved by Headquarters, the hours may not be able to be counted toward this assignment.

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Tips on Writing an Academic Paper

Structure

Every paper should have a focus. Each paper should exist to draw attention to something. What is the one thing a reader should remember after reading a paper? This is the paper's thesis. A thesis is usually formally developed into a thesis statement, and, while encouraged in Ambassador League reports, it is not required. However, you should at least have a thesis in mind to provide structure and purpose to your reports. From a thesis should come sub-topics—ideas that branch off the thesis to provide a deeper look at the different aspects of the thesis. For smaller, 1-2 page, reports there should be 2-4 sub-points. Each sub-point can be made into a paragraph, and throughout the paper, each paragraph should logically connect to the previous paragraph and lead to the following paragraph. Without the structure that a thesis statement provides and subsequent sub-points, papers come across as messy and confusing—a collection of ideas that don't take the reader anywhere and have limited relationship to each other.

Research

The research phase is when you are gathering information before writing. This might be reading a book for a book report or reading Scripture for a Bible Research assignment. As you are researching, take notes and look for **main points** that could be your thesis. Keep in mind what sub-points could come off of potential theses. Look for things that are interesting or important.

To avoid plagiarism, paraphrase any information you do not want to quote directly and clearly use quotation marks for sections you may want to quote. Ensure that you know which ideas came from someone else so that they can be properly cited.

Outline

Before you start writing, make sure that you have a clear vision of what you want to say in your report in the form of a thesis and sub-points that all relate to your thesis.

Writing

Introduction

Your introduction should give a general overview of what the topic is and mention the sub-points you will focus on. Because it is the first thing readers see, there should be a hook that grabs readers and encourages them to keep reading.

Body

Each paragraph in the body should focus on a thesis sub-point. Make sure to support any claims made. Give a reason to believe that claim.

Conclusion

Not using a conclusion in your paper would be like ending a movie immediately after the final battle. Yes, you know who won, but you still want things to be wrapped up nicely. In the conclusion, touch again on the main sub-points covered throughout your paper and end by showing what the one most important point is that people should remember.

General Guidelines

–KISS (Keep It Simple, Stupid). Be straightforward. Language should be clear, concise, and uncomplicated. If an idea could be expressed in 20 words or 10 words, use 10.

–Avoid meta commentary. In other words, don't write about paper or about you writing the paper. Don't address the reader ("you"). First person pronouns ("I") should be used sparingly in formal writing. They may be used in anecdotes and narratives, but generally speaking, they should not be used in persuasive or informative writing.

REPORT HEADERS

You may turn in the reports in any order you wish. The ordinal numbers in the headers below (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.) should reflect how many of that type of report you have turned in. You do not need to turn reports in based on the order they are given in the packet. It is entirely up to you which reports you turn in when. Just make sure that the first report you turn in from that category is marked as "1st" and so on. If your header does not match our records of what you turned in (the header says it's the 8th Bible study, but we only have records of 6 Bible studies), we will contact you to find out which report is missing.

Tactics

Name: John Adams
Assignment: Tactics
LEAD Experience
Submitted September 2022

Name: John Adams
Assignment: Tactics
Promote LEAD
Submitted September 2022

Name: John Adams
Assignment: Tactics
Ambassador League Experience
Submitted September 2022

Observe

Name: John Adams
Assignment: Observe
4th Report: Legislative Session and Committee Meeting
Submitted September 2022

Name: John Adams
Assignment: Observe
3rd Report: Judicial Trial
Submitted September 2022

Name: John Adams
Assignment: Observe
2nd Report: Local Meeting
Submitted September 2022

Name: John Adams
Assignment: Observe
1st Report: Shadow a Local Leader
Submitted September 2022

Read

Name: John Adams
Assignment: Read
3rd Report: Defending the Declaration
Submitted September 2022

Biblical Research

Name: John Adams
Assignment: Research
5th Report: The Nature of Man
Submitted May 2022

Take Action

Name: John Adams
Assignment: Take Action
1st Letter to the Editor to The Lansing State Journal
Submitted September 2022

Name: John Adams
Assignment: Take Action
1st Interview: Dale Rodgers
Submitted September 2022

Name: John Adams
Assignment: Take Action
1st Volunteer Report: Non-Profit Organization
Submitted September 2022

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Name: John Adams
Assignment: Research
5th Report: The Nature of Man
Submitted May 2023

TIPS FOR REPORTS

Every report that is submitted must have a header across the top, just as is demonstrated in on this page. The header has four parts: your name, the category of the assignment, the specific name of the report, and the month and year you submitted it. In the third line include the ordinal number of the report if it is a report where several of the same type are submitted. These are an Interview, Letter to the Editor, Bible Study, or Book Report. This should show how many of that report you have turned in. It does not necessarily reflect the order on the assignments sheet.

You can choose to use whatever font, font size, spacing, and margins you like, but do be consistent throughout the document and pick something that looks professional. All reports except for the Ambassador League Experience Report and letters to the editor need to be between 550 and 1100 words. The Ambassador League Experience Report must be between 1100 and 2200 words and letters to the editor must be at least 150 words long. Be aware that some publications do have a maximum length. When you send in your reports, in the subject line of the e-mail include the category, number of report, and topic of the report (e.g. 5th Research Report Truth).

The style of your report and what you include will be determined by the type of report you are writing. Feel free to experiment with different styles, but for the most part each report should have an introduction, a body, and a conclusion. Introductions give an overview of the topic of the report and the main points you will be covering, bodies give the in-depth information, and conclusions summarize the paper and cover the most important thing that can be learned. Avoid mentioning the report in your report. When you say "**This report** is going to explain..." or "I hope you enjoyed reading **this report** and understand now how...", you don't add to the report and instead distract from the points you are making.

For reports about an experience or something that you did, such as promoting LEAD, volunteering, or observing an event, at the very least you should include what you observed or what happened, what your thoughts were about the experience, and what you learned by doing what you did. Feel free to include other elements like how you went about setting up the event. For promoting LEAD you can explain why you chose that specific group, whom you spoke with to facilitate it, and whether you ran into any problems. You could include similar information in your volunteer reports, along with some background information on the organization you chose and why you believe that organization is important. Make sure not to plagiarize content from the organization's website. Always acknowledge where you found specific information or language even if it is paraphrased.

Book reports should summarize the book and give your opinion about whether it was a good book. Try to focus on the most important aspects of the book rather than giving a play-by-play of each chapter. The Research reports, which are analyses of what Scripture says about different topics, will be the types of reports that should most closely mirror a school paper. Along with the basic introduction, body, and conclusion formatting, there should be two to four main points that can all link to the most important point which the paper focuses on as it ends.

Interviews should have a biography, preferably at the beginning of the report. It shouldn't be more than 20% of the report and can either be an original composition or can be quoted from a different source **provided that the source is referenced**. The interview itself can either be a transcript of the interview or a summary. If you are unsure of how to go about writing a specific report, you can always contact us at Headquarters, and we would love to talk you through it.

