August 2023

Dear Agent-in-Training:

Thank you for signing up and taking the challenge. Your goal is to complete the following requirements and become an official Ambassador League *Agent* by earning *24 points* or a *Special Agent* by earning *37 points*. These are your **mission orders.**

1. Point Requirements for Agent Status		Point Requirements for Special Agent Status		
5 points	Mission: Tactics	5 points	Mission: Tactics	
3 points	Mission: Read	4 points	Mission: Read	
5 points	Mission: Research	11 points	Mission: Research	
3 points	Mission: Observe	4 points	Mission: Observe	
8 points	Mission: Take Action	13 points	Mission: Take Action	
24 points		37 points		

Your packet includes an Assignment Checklist for you to keep track of when you send in reports, verification forms, and the date they are accepted by Headquarters. Make sure that any time you send something to Headquarters you keep track of it on that sheet. When you submit a verification form, keep a copy for yourself in case something happens. It is not uncommon for Headquarters to send back a report asking for certain corrections to be made. Do not mark a report as complete until Headquarters officially accepts it. Point totals can be verified via the emailed Ambassador Alert, on the SSI website (ssionline.org/ambassador-league/points), or by contacting the Ambassador League Coordinator at amleague@ssionline.org.

2. Advisor

At Headquarters, we are here to support you. We will have a person dedicated to your class of Agents. This Advisor is here to facilitate the check-in calls, keep you on track with meeting your goals, answer your questions, and provide additional support. However, there are many of you and only one Advisor for your whole class. This is why we encourage you to create a support network. Reach out to family, friends, mentors, teachers, or others that can help encourage you and keep you accountable as you complete Ambassador League. The goal of Ambassador League is to push you out of your comfort zone and having a core group of people to support you is essential. These people may or may not have knowledge of the program, but the main goal is that they are able to help you as you go.

3. Read Your Packet (plagiarism, paraphrasing, Sample report resources)

In the Ambassador League packet, in addition to the descriptions of each assignment and verification forms, there are additional resources to help you complete your reports. The Tips on Writing an Academic Paper (pg. 16) provide a guideline for your Ambassador League reports. There is also a sample report (back of pg. 16) to guide you. While you may have written academic essays before, as with any class and teacher, Ambassador League reports have different qualifications and requirements. Additionally, the packet includes Headquarters' policy on Plagiarism and Proper Citations (pg. 17). This explains what plagiarism is and how to avoid it by correctly citing direct quotations and paraphrases.

Before you submit your first report, you must submit a paragraph explaining what plagiarism is and how to avoid it. Be sure to cover how to properly quote and paraphrase as well as how to cite a source. This shows Headquarters that you understand the importance of academic honesty, not using

someone else's words and trying to pass them off as your own, purposely or not. It also demonstrates your commitment to respecting yourself as an academic writer. In your reports, you do not need to use a specific style of citations or formatting for your bibliography. Any time you directly quote a source or use someone else's idea, you need to reference the original source specifically enough that the reader will know which ideas or words are not yours and whose they actually are. This includes using quotation marks any time you use someone else's words. If you are already familiar with plagiarism, you shouldn't need to do any further research. Just put what you know into a paragraph and send it to Headquarters. Those who have not taken a writing course that covered plagiarism or who are unsure of what is considered plagiarism should take some time to read about plagiarism before writing the paragraph. This paragraph can be written and submitted at https://ssionline.org/ambassador-league/resources/ before the program starts September 1st. You will not receive any points for reports turned in until your paragraph on plagiarism has been submitted.

4. Filing instructions

Any assignment that does not meet minimum length or other requirements is not acceptable and will be returned to you for correction. All assignments must follow the formatting requirements. Please check to see that all of your reports follow these guidelines:

- (1) The top of the page *must* list your name, the assignment (Tactics, Read, Research, Observe, or Take Action), the name of your report, and the month and year the report is being submitted. See the page on Report Headers in your packet (pg. 18) for specific examples.
- (2) Unless otherwise specified the report must be between 550 and 1100 words.
- (3) The font, margins, and spacing of your reports will be left up to you, but they should look professional. A typical professional format is Times New Roman font, size 12 with 1 inch margins.
- (4) When saving your report, include the number, category, and name of the assignment (3rd Take Action, Public Discourse) in the title of the document. If anyone was specifically involved (such as in an interview) include the name of the person in the title as well.
- (5) E-mail your completed report to <u>amleague@ssionline.org</u> with the number, category, and name of the assignment included in the subject line.
- (6) All reports and forms are due by August 31, 2024.

Don't be discouraged by the enormity of the task before you. To reach **Agent** status, you need only earn an average of 2 points per month. Those striving to achieve **Special Agent** status, and receive a scholarship, should endeavor to earn an average of 3 points each month. Both levels of Agent will receive recognition at our annual banquet in the fall. *You can do it!* God bless you as you become an Ambassador for Christ and His kingdom.

To His glory,

Joseph Cecil

SSI President & CEO

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) Create a Battle Plan – Battle Plan Form

Objective: To lay out an actionable plan of attack for the year ahead by a) creating a rough timeline to complete assignments, b) identifying a support network (i.e. family, friends, and mentors), c) outlining any major commitments (i.e. sports, theatre, vacation, school, etc.).

Instructions: Fill out the form on the website (found at ssionline.org/ambassador-league/resources/; see back for list of questions on the form) which will give your advisor your approximate timeline and plans to reach your goal. In this plan, you need to ensure that you can complete at least five assignments by January 1st. If you do not have five points by January 1st, Headquarters will arrange a call with you to determine if you are able to complete the program. This form will not serve as a hard schedule, but it will be used as a benchmark standard by which you and your advisor should plan to consult regularly to ensure that you are on track.

This assignment must be completed in September for you to continue the program.

2 2) Be Accountable – Monthly Check-in Calls

Objective: To set goals and discuss plans of action.

Instructions: There will be a total of ten check-in calls throughout the year. The first two calls will be the September "boot camp" calls to develop a clear understanding of the program and to formulate strategies for completing assignments, writing, etc. After this, a call will be held once a month from October-May. *You are required to attend at least six Ambassador League calls throughout the year*, keeping track of all of your meetings on the Check-In Call form. In these meetings you should be discussing your goals that you want to accomplish before your next check-in 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. A schedule for October-May calls will be released once all Battle Plan Forms are submitted.

September Boot Camp Calls will be held at 6pm on Tuesdays, September 19th and 26th.

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 time 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. 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 31st 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 <u>amleague@ssionline.org</u>. 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 scanned copy/photo must be sent to Headquarters. Always keep verification forms for your own records.

Battle Plan Form

Complete the Battle Plan Form found at <u>ssionline.org/ambassador-league/resources</u>. Be prepared to answer the following questions:

- Why do you want to complete the Ambassador league Program?
- Do you plan to complete as Agent or Special Agent?
- How do you hope to grow in the next year?
- Mark which assignments you anticipate struggling with and which you anticipate being the easiest:
 - o Attending Ambassador League Check-in Calls
 - o LEAD Experience Report
 - o Promote LEAD
 - o Ambassador League Experience Report
 - o Book Reports
 - o Biblical Research
 - Observe a Legislative Session and Committee Meeting
 - Observe a Local Judicial Trial
 - Observe a Local Meeting (School Board, City Council, or County Commissioner Meeting)
 - o Shadow a Local Leader
 - o Public Discourses
 - Interview of a Local Leader
 - Volunteering for a Community Service or Non-Profit Organization
 - O Volunteering for a Public Policy Action Organization
 - Volunteer for a Political Campaign
- Do you have any questions regarding specific assignments?
- Are there any assignments that you will need help from other people to complete (i.e. rides to interview, a computer for writing reports, etc.)?
- Make a list of the top five people (parents, siblings, friends, mentors, etc.) who could serve as a resource to you in completing the program.
- Is there an individual you could identify who could help you as you network with local leaders?
- Provide a list of the major commitments you have in the coming year and the time frame those occur in (e.g orchestra, Mondays, 6-9 PM, Sep-May). Consider sports, theatre, summer camps, school, vacations, etc.
- Indicate which days and times you would be available to join the Ambassador League Check-in Calls (Check boxes)

0	Mondays: ☐ 4pm ☐ 5pm ☐ 6pm
0	Tuesdays: ☐ 4pm ☐ 5pm ☐ 6pm
0	Wednesdays: □ 4pm □ 5pm □ 6pn
0	Thursdays: □ 4pm □ 5pm □ 6pm
0	Fridays: □ 4pm □ 5pm □ 6pm
0	Saturdays: □ 9am □ 10am

• Student Covenant: I agree to abide by the student covenant, recognizing that Ambassador League is intended to challenge me and help me grow. By signing below, I am committing to write with academic honesty and will not plagiarize any work for Ambassador League. I will review the proper methods of quoting, paraphrasing, and citing to ensure that I do not plagiarize. If I am unsure how to properly cite a source or what should be cited, I will ask for help.

I recognize that when I copy, plagiarize, or have another source (human or artificial intelligence) write for me, this is disrespectful to me, the original source, and God. I commit to turning in my work and my work alone and submit to the consequences if I do not, even if accidental.

Ambassador League Check-In-Calls Log (Required)

Instructions: Attend *at least six* Ambassador League Check-in calls throughout the year for accountability, encouragement, and direction. Fill out this form for each call you attend. After the sixth call, e-mail a scan or photograph of the completed form to amleague@ssionline.org.

photograph of the completed form to amleague@ssionline.org.

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

Ambassador League Agent:

1)	Date of Call:	Current Point Status:	
	Describe any roadblocks or difficulties you are e	encountering:	
	Outline your goals for the coming month:		
2)	Date of Call:	Current Point Status:	
Describe any roadblocks or difficulties you are encountering:		encountering:	
	Outline your goals for the coming month:		
3)	Date of Call:	Current Point Status:	
	Describe any roadblocks or difficulties you are encountering:		
	Outline your goals for the coming month:		

Ambassador League Check-In-Calls Log

4)	Date of Call:	Current Point Status:
	Describe any roadblocks or difficulties you are e	encountering:
	Outline your goals for the coming month:	
5)		Current Daint Status
5)	Date of Call:	Current Point Status:
	Describe any roadblocks or difficulties you are e	encountering:
	outline your gouls for the confing month.	
5)	Date of Call:	Current Point Status:
- /		
	Describe any roadblocks or difficulties you are e	encountering:
	Outline your goals for the coming month:	

Ambassador League Verification Form Tactics: Promote LEAD

E-mail your report AND a scan or photo of this form to <u>amleague@ssionline.org</u>
Any questions? E-mail Headquarters at <u>amleague@ssionline.org</u> 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:

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: Action

- Just Do Something: A Liberating Approach to Finding God's Will (Kevin DeYoung, 2014)
- Do Hard Things (Alex and Brett Harris, 2008)

CATEGORY II: Apologetics

- Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions (Greg Koukl, 2019)
- *The Case for Christ* (Lee Strobel, 1998)

CATEGORY III: Faith Fundamentals

- The Story of Reality: How the World Began, How it Ends, and Everything in Between (Greg Koukl, 2017)
- *Mere Christianity* (C.S. Lewis, 1942)

CATEGORY IV: American History

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

Reports should:

- Have the correct heading (see the template for report headers on page 18).
- Include the title of the book and the name of the author(s) in the first paragraph.
- See pages 16-17 for tips on writing an academic paper, a sample report, and notes on plagiarism and proper citations.

Guiding Questions:

- 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.

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 <u>amleague@ssionline.org</u> or call (517) 321-6233 x702.

Assignment: Biblical Research

Objective: To apply the lens of Scripture to different areas of the world around you and to develop a 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 you can 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 cite 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 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:

[Your Name]
[Number] Biblical Research
[Name of Assignment]
Submitted [Month Year]

*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, if it is the fifth Bible study this Agent has turned in and thus the heading would read "5th Biblical Research."

Filing your reports: E-mail each report to <u>amleague@ssionline.org</u>. 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.

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) A Christian's Responsibility to the Poor

What responsibilities does a Christian have to respond to the poor as an individual, within the church, and acting within the government? How should it play out within each sphere?

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) Gender and Sexuality

What does the Bible say about it? Is its position consistent across the Old to the New Testament? Does what the Bible says still apply today? Why or why not?

7) Imago Dei: Made in God's Image

What does it mean to be made in God's image? What responsibility exists for us if we are made in God's image? What does this imply about the value of human life? How should this impact how we treat others and how we steward our own lives?

8) Inspiration, Inerrancy, and Infallibility of the Bible

<u>Inspiration</u>: Divinely inspired by God. <u>Inerrancy</u>: Perfect and without error. <u>Infallibility</u>: Incapable of having error.

What does the Bible say about itself? How was it written? Does it claim to be without error? How do the Resurrection and/or fulfilment of prophecy play into these ideas? Are their proofs within the Bible? *Note: This report should be based on what Scripture says concerning itself. It should not primarily be a research report on an 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-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) Government as an Institution

What is the role of the government as an institution? What does God give government authority over? What is the difference between the moral law and a government's legal structure?

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. In your report describe your experience and include your personal observations on each event and what you learned from it. 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, we recommend going at a time when multiple trials are being held.
- Attend a local meeting of your school board, city council, or county commissioner and file a report and verification form with Headquarters on what you observed. Eligible meetings are any government meetings funded by taxpayers 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 <u>amleague@ssionline.org</u>. 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 scanned copy/photo must be sent to Headquarters. Always keep verification forms for your own records.

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

Ambassador League Verification Form Observe: Judicial Trial or Review

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

Student's Name:	
	e filled out by family members or mentors. Someone else must t need to have any authority in what you are doing. It can even be
Requirement: Observe a session of a judio	cial trial or review that is open to the public.
Verification of completion (Please print or ty	ype):
Name of person verifying this activity:	
Position/Title:	
I certify that the student named above has con	
Signed:	Date:

Ambassador League Verification Form Observe: Committee Meeting and Legislative Session

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

Student's Name:	
	illed out by family members or mentors. Someone else must ag/session. This person does not need to have any authority in server.
Requirement A: Observe a legislative comm	ittee meeting.
Verification of completion (Please print or type)):
Name of person verifying this activity:	
Position/Title:	
I certify that the student named above has complete	leted Requirement A as described above:
Signed:	Date:
Requirement B : Observe a legislative session	n.
Verification of completion (Please print or type)):
Name of person verifying this activity:	
Position/Title:	
I certify that the student named above has complete	leted Requirement B as described above:
Signed:	Date:

Ambassador League Verification Form Observe: Local Government Meeting

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

Student's Name:	
NOTE: Verification forms are NOT to be filled out by fan verify your presence at the meeting. This person does not nee It can even be another observer.	
Requirement : Observe a local meeting of the school board, another government meeting that is funded by taxpayers.	city council, county commissioner, or
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 require	
Signed:	Date:

Ambassador League Verification Form Observe: Shadow a Local Leader

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

Student's Name:	
NOTE: Verification forms are NOT to be filled out	t by family members or mentors.
Requirement: Spend a day shadowing a local leader	er.
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 per Please fill out name and position	son who was shadowed
Name of person verifying this activity:	
Position/Title:	

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 Assignment: Take Action

There are three types of assignments, each with different requirements: *Public Discourse, Interview Local Leaders, and Volunteer*.

Take Action – Public Discourse

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

Instructions: Engage your community in a public forum on current events or community issues. You can also write to call people to action, for example, to encourage them to participate in a program like Ambassador League. The public forum can include article submissions, newsletter items, letters to the editor, social media posts, public presentations, etc.

These forums must be pre-approved by your advisor and cannot be self-published (i.e. if you chose to make a social media post, it cannot be for your personal page), and it must be linked to a reputable organization that is specifically geared to reaching members of your community (such as a local newspaper or newsletter or a public forum such as for a school board, city council, county commissioner, or Lion's club). Your submission should be at least 150 words for a written submission and at least five minutes for an oral presentation. For approval on your chosen medium, fill out the form on the website at ssionline.org/ambassador-league/resources. Your submission does not need to be published to earn a point. However, if it is published, we would love to hear about it!

Requirements: Agent: Submit at least three different discourse items. Special Agent: Submit five different discourse items.

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:
 - O What makes you a leader?
 - o How would you define a good leader?
 - O What motivated you to seek your current position?
 - What training do you think is important to prepare for your position?
 - o What are the greatest rewards of your job?

- o 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 engage with your community and world in a way you have not before.

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 <u>Non-Profit Organization</u> (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 submit an approval form to Headquarters (found at sionline.org/ambassador-league/resources) 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 submit an approval form to Headquarters (found at ssionline.org/ambassador-league/resources) 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 <u>amleague@ssionline.org.</u> 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 scanned copy/photo must be sent to Headquarters. Always keep verification forms for your own records.

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:	
	o be filled out by family members or mentors. Someone else must on does not need to have any authority in what you are doing. It can
Requirement: Volunteer for a political	campaign or ballot issue.
Verification of completion (Please print o	or type):
Name of person verifying this service activi	ity:
Position/Title:	
I certify that the student named above has	s (give a description of service/activity):
For (name of candidate or campaign):_	
Number of volunteer hours:	_
Signed:	Date:

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(s) 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.

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(s) approved by Headquarters. Call or e-mail Headquarters to explain what organization(s) you would like to volunteer for and how this organization(s) seeks to affect public policy either through legislative action or by educating the public on an issue. 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.

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, which is encouraged but not required in Ambassador League reports. 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. All paraphrases and direct quotes must be 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.

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 the paper or about yourself writing the paper ("In this report I am going to show you..."). 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.

Read through the sample report on the back that gives several tips for writing reports in Ambassador League.

John Adams
5th Tactics
Ambassador League Experience Report
Submitted July 2024

Sample Report

Every report that is submitted must have a header across the top, just as is demonstrated on this page. The header has four parts: your name, the category of the assignment and number of reports submitted in that category, the specific name of the report, and the month and year you submitted it. (The number indicated in the second line of the header 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 Final Ambassador League Experience Report and public discourses need to be between 550 and 1100 words. The Ambassador League Experience Report must be between 1100 and 2200 words and Public Discourses must be at least 150 words long. 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 Biblical Research 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 Biblical 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.

Notes on Plagiarism and Proper Citations

Plagiarism is any use of another person's work without properly referencing the work. This can be done by copying the author/creator's exact wording without using proper quotation marks or citations by taking the ideas presented by someone else and passing them off as your own. For instance, reading a book by Francis Chan for inspiration on your Bible study and then referencing his unique analysis without crediting him as the originator of that idea would constitute plagiarism. Both forms of plagiarism, copying the author's exact words or copying ideas without proper recognition, are academic dishonesty and are unacceptable for multiple reasons. First, it is disrespectful to God who commanded you not to steal. One's intellectual property is of equal value to one's physical property and is owed the same respect. Second, it is a failure to utilize the gifts that God has given you, and by not using those gifts to their full capacity, you are actively defeating the purpose of being in Ambassador League in the first place. Third, it is disrespectful to your advisor and a waste of time for you. In a both high school and college, plagiarized papers are given a zero, and repeated offenses can result in expulsion. Headquarters will not accept plagiarized reports, and any plagiarism will need to be rewritten. This means extra time writing for you and extra time grading for your advisor. Neither of these is acceptable.

Quoting and Paraphrasing Well

While plagiarism is unacceptable, quoting or paraphrasing an author's work is acceptable. A large part of the learning experience may require counsel from outside sources. Outside sources can be referenced using direct quotes or paraphrases. Let's look at different ways we could use the following quote from Francis Chan: *Original Quote:* I think one of the most destructive practices of your generation is that you value your own thoughts way too much when God says, "my thoughts aren't the same as your." And you want to look inside, and you want to tell everyone else what you've been thinking and what you've been feeling rather than opening up the word of God and saying, "these truths are way beyond mine."

<u>Direct Quotes:</u> For a direct quote, make sure to put place a quotation mark on either end of the quote and copy the exact phrasing used by the author.

Example: Francis Chan stated that "one of the most destructive practices of your generation is that you value your own thoughts way too much when God says, 'my thoughts aren't the same as your.' And you want to look inside, and you want to tell everyone else what you've been thinking and what you've been feeling rather than opening up the word of God and saying, 'these truths are way beyond mine.'"

<u>Paraphrasing Incorrectly:</u> Paraphrasing is not just taking someone's ideas and rewording them. This is called thesaurus paraphrasing and is unacceptable. Suppose we were to try to paraphrase the quote from above: Example: I think a dangerous idea of my generation is to pay a lot more attention to what you think than you should when God says that his thoughts are different than yours...

In this case, the exact same meaning of Chan's words are used, but he isn't given credit for his analysis and you as the author have contributed nothing new to the reader. Rather than condensing, referencing, or expounding on Chan's thoughts, your simply copying it with different words.

Paraphrasing Correctly: You can, however, paraphrase acceptably by taking the author's ideas, condensing them into a more concise or more understandable way, and giving them credit. For instance, you could paraphrase a Francis Chan sermon by saying:

Example: Francis Chan asserted that we put far too much emphasis on what we think and believe instead of what God says.

In that sentence, an entire paragraph of information is summarized, and the author (Chan) is recognized.

Citing Your Works

Always make sure to include a citation whenever directly quoting or paraphrasing the author's work. While there is no one specific format for you to use for these purposes, you must acknowledge the author, work, and location of the material you are referencing both in-text and give a bibliography at the end of the

report (examples on the following page).

In-text Citation Examples

In-text citations are included in body of the paper itself to give the reader a basic location of the work you are referencing. For in-text citations, follow your quote or reference by adding a set of parenthesis that include the citation between them.

Book: For books, include the author's last name and page number. For example:

Example: "To the cry of justice, the ears of a monarch should be open at every time, place, and circumstance" (Talisman, pg. 179)

<u>Website:</u> For websites or blogs, page number may not be an option. In these cases, use the same format as a book using paragraph numbers instead of page numbers. For example:

Example: "In the past, I've emphasized three key principles of biblical interpretation: context, history, and genre. Each of these has a corresponding question" (Koukl, pp. 3).

Bibliography Examples

A bibliography is a collection of every source consulted during the writing of the report. It should be at the very end of your report and should not be included in the word count. Arrange your bibliography alphabetically by the author's last name.

Book: For a book citation, you want to give reference to the author and title of the book:

Example: McCullough, David. Mornings on Horseback.

<u>Website</u>: For websites, including the author and title are still needed. Additionally, you should include the URL:

Example: Koukl, Gregory. Five Fatal Flaws of Moral Relativism. https://www.str.org/w/five-fatal-flaws-of-moral-relativism

Report Headers

Each report must have a header that gives 1) Your name, 2) The category of assignment and number of assignments in that category that you have turned in, 3) The name of the assignment and any additional details (e.g. the name of the leader interviewed, the organization a public discourse was sent to, etc.), 4) When the report was submitted. Below is a template for each header. You do not need to turn reports in based on the order they are given in the packet. You may choose which reports you turn in when, but do make sure that the number given in the header reflects how many of that category you have turned in. The first Biblical Research you turn in would read "1st Biblical Research" in the header, even if it's your 5th report total. If your header does not match our records of what you turned in (the header says it's the 8th Take Action but we have only seen 6 come in), we will contact you to find out which report is missing.

Tactics

[Your Name] [Your Name] [Your Name] [Number] Tactics [Number] Tactics [Number] Tactics

LEAD Experience Promote LEAD Ambassador League Experience Submitted [Month Year] Submitted [Month Year] Submitted [Month Year]

Read **Biblical Research** [Your Name] [Your name]

[Number] Read [Number] Biblical Research

[Title of Book] [Study Topic]

Submitted [Month Year] Submitted [Month Year]

Observe

[Your Name] [Your Name] [Number] Observe [Number] Observe Legislative Session and Committee Meeting Local Meeting

Submitted [Month Year] Submitted [Month Year]

[Your Name] [Your Name] [Number] Observe [Number] Observe Judicial Trial Shadow a Local Leader

Submitted [Month Year] Submitted [Month Year]

Take Action

[Your Name] [Your Name] [Your Name]

[Number] Take Action [Number] Take Action [Number] Take Action

Public Discourse to [Name of organization] Interview with [Leader's name] Volunteer for a Non-Profit Organization

Submitted [Month Year] Submitted [Month Year] Submitted [Month Year]

Examples

John Adams John Adams John Adams

2nd Take Action 6th Biblical Research 1st Read

Public Discourse to the Detroit Free Press Mere Christianity Truth

Submitted October 2023 Submitted February 2024 Submitted May 2024