



Catholic Theology of Science

Writing a Publishable Essay

Select a Topic

- Select one module topic that was particularly interesting to you.
- Review the reading assignment for that module.
- Think about the one message you want to communicate from the reading.
- Put that message into one sentence.
- This is the point of your essay. It is your topic sentence.
- Rethink it if you do not like the sentence you wrote.

Organize the Essay

- The essay should have an opening paragraph, background, opinion, and conclusion.
- First, write the background. This should come from the reading assignment and include references to the reading material. All information should relate to your topic sentence.
- Then write your opinion. Your opinion should build upon the background and defend your topic sentence.
- Then write the opening paragraph or the conclusion. The opening paragraph should grab the interest of the reader. It should contain your topic sentence, even if you reword it some at this point. It should tell the reader what your opinion will be, but without explanation, and how you will defend it.
- The conclusion should reassert your topic sentence. The reader should be left with a clear idea of what you defended and where you stand. It is also appropriate to end with a call to action or deeper thought on the topic.

Length

- The essay should be between 1,000 – 1,200 words.
- Write the rough draft longer.
- Refine it at the end by challenging all your word choices.
- Be careful not to repeat words too much. If you like a word and use it more than twice, find a synonym.

Proofing

- Check your grammar, punctuation, syntax, and spelling.
- Re-read your essay aloud until it sounds like something you would actually say to an audience. Writing is a deliberation of your voice. Make your words count!