

Assignment purpose: To provide students with experience of conducting a survey, analyzing the results, presenting the results to the class, and creating an informative written report. The written report will comprise half of the Lateral Thinking portion of the Second Semester Final Exam (Q3 + Q4).

Assignment – Postmodern Times Optional Session A: Conduct your own “Cultural Analysis” survey concerning the beliefs of those in your culture. In chapter one of *Postmodern Times*, Veith offers some statistics regarding the beliefs of those in our culture and in the church.

- **Conduct a survey** of your own asking some of the same questions and some new ones in order to compare and contrast with the findings Veith mentions in chapter 1. Include both believers and non-believers in your survey (see questions below).
 - Consider a google form to collect data
 - Number of interviewees: 10 (at least 5 of them in person or via zoom/FaceTime)
 - Try for about half churched, half unchurched interviewees
- **Compile your data** in a meaningful way.
- **Analyze your data** and include in your report as an appendix. Your interviews need to be complete and shared with your partner at a date agreed upon by the two of you. I get that life is full right now, but please show love and respect for your partner by providing the data in a timely manner, allowing you both time to analyze the data and write the report.
- **Present your data** in class on Monday, May 10 (Zach, Paige, Tia?) or May 17th; provide electronic copy of your presentation to Mrs. Boyum prior to class.
- **Create a full written report of your data and observations** – This report is due with your final exam.

Survey questions – Ask each person you interview the following questions. Determine a way to share your data with your partner (and share it ☺).

1. What is a worldview?
2. What is your worldview and/or religion? [worldview = framework for understanding reality]
3. Do you believe absolute truth exists, and why?
4. How do you determine what is right and wrong?
5. What is art and what is its purpose?
6. Do you believe that art or architecture expresses the worldview of its creator?
7. What are the core ideals of our culture? (for example, one ideal = equality)
8. What changes would you offer concerning the ideals of our culture?
9. What is tolerance? What is compromise? How are they different?
10. Is there a problem with tolerance in our culture? Please explain.
11. Do you think someone can believe in two religions at the same time? For example, can someone be a Buddhist and a Christian at the same time?
12. What is your view of the Bible?
13. What do you believe about Jesus?

Your report should include:

- The **data/results of your interviews**
 1. Body of the report: Present the data for *each of the 13 survey questions* in a summary that is fitting (so, you should have 13 short summaries.) For example, for question #3, you might say:
 - “Of the 20 subjects interviewed, 10 believed that absolute truth exists, 5 did not believe it exists, and 5 weren’t sure.
 - Of those who answered that absolute truth exists, 8 were churched and 5 claimed to hold the biblical worldview.
 - Of those who answered that absolute truth doesn’t exist...”
 2. Appendix to the report: an organized table of ALL the interview transcriptions/summaries

- Please refer to people by interview number with a short description “#1: friend from AWANA” or “#2: great aunt” instead of using their real names
- Your **analysis of the interviews**, including (but not limited to) answers to the following questions
 1. Absolute truth: On page 16, Veith explains, *“It’s hard to witness to truth to people who believe that truth is relative. It is hard to proclaim the forgiveness of sins to people who believe that, since morality is relative, they have no sins to forgive. According to a recent poll, 66 percent of Americans believe that ‘there is no such thing as absolute truth.’ Among young adults, the percentage is even higher: 72 percent of those between eighteen and twenty-five do not believe absolutes exist.”*
 - How close are the numbers in your poll to the one Veith references?
 - If there is a discrepancy, what might account for the difference?
 2. Which response (of all the questions you asked) was the most surprising to you? Why?
 3. Since the Bible is your ultimate authority, give an extended analysis of the answers to question #12 (What is your view of the Bible).
 - Give some of the answers you received.
 - Discuss how we as Christians should/might respond to these beliefs.
 4. Discuss how the answers to question #1 (what is a worldview) affect the beliefs about #4 (How do you determine what is right and wrong?). Do you see any connections?
 5. Observe your data and make **3 to 5 observations** about trends, common threads, or interesting responses. *Note: These observations should be developed in a full paragraph. Consider providing background/context, presenting data, making observations, and perhaps even suggesting how this might affect you or those around you. The paragraphs do not have to be linked together in an essay.*

Your In-Class Presentation:

You will be presenting the content from your **analysis section** of your report. You do NOT need to present the answers to the 13 survey questions unless they pertain to the five analysis questions.

You do not have to present every piece of data in your *presentation* (as you will in your report.) That being said, the presentation is for *overall trends* and *selective details*.

You have up to 20 minutes to make your presentation, and you will be presenting individually. Remember that you are sharing your *data* with your partner, but you won’t be *presenting* the data or *analyzing* together. Feel free to contact your data partner if there’s something you don’t understand about their interview. But please don’t present two identical reports! ;-)

You have a good bit of flexibility on how to present your data to the class! Think back to your previous presentations; what is the most enjoyable and informative for your audience? You will have a lot of data for this report, so it’s important to plan how you want to present it! Again, please do not feel you need to transmit the full contents of your interviews in your presentation!

Consider the following:

- PowerPoint (or other) presentation slides can force you to have an outline or other format for what you want to communicate.
- Handouts for the audience often help the audience to know where you are going in the presentation. They can also provide more details than you are able to include in your oral presentation.
- Simply reading paragraphs isn’t always compelling! Guide your audience to understand why you are sharing what you are sharing. Think of how you include direct quotes in a paper – there is usually some type of analysis given that introduces the quote (context, why you are including it) as well as some analysis – what did the quote prove? Try to do this type of analysis in your presentation.
- Give your audience something to *think about!* You will be presenting 3-5 observations. These should be more synthesis types of observations. Perhaps save the most impactful one for last – maybe one that has compelled or convicted you about life, the Lord, or living for the Lord! You might even include a call to action for yourself or to the audience.

- Remember to practice your presentation! This will bless everyone – including you! It will help you gauge your level of detail and help you keep it within the 20-minute time limit.