



AMBASSADOR LEAGUE
OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE. INTO YOUR COMMUNITY

Agent Packet

2025-2026



SSI

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Writing Reports

Outline and Structure

Idea Formation and Research: Start by reading over the assignment instructions. Each assignment has a section on what each report should contain and some guiding questions to get you started. Then begin to gather information; this might be reading a book, giving an interview, or reading Scripture for a Bible. As you are researching, take notes and look for main points that could provide structure for your report. To avoid plagiarism, ensure that you know which ideas came from someone else so that they can be properly cited. All paraphrases and direct quotes used in any report must be cited (in-text and a works cited page). See *Plagiarism* and *APA Style Guide* for more information.

Structure: Every report should have a distinct and specific focus that draws the reader's attention. What is the main thing a reader should remember after reading the report? This is the report's thesis. From the thesis there should be ideas (or subpoints) that branch off to provide a deeper look at the different aspects or parts of the thesis. Most reports will have 2-4 subpoints. Each subpoint can be made into a paragraph that logically connects to each other. The thesis and subpoints provide a structure and roadmap for the report; without that structure, the report is a collection of ideas that don't take the reader anywhere and have limited relationships to each other.

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 subpoints 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. The last line of the introduction should be your thesis.
- **Body Paragraphs:** Each paragraph in the body should focus on a thesis subpoint. Every claim you make needs to have evidence to support it. Think of a body paragraph like a sandwich: each part (bread, veggies, meat, etc.) is necessary for a complete sandwich, and when a part is missing, it is no longer a sandwich.
 - Introductory Sentence (the top piece of bread): Summarize the main point of the paragraph in one sentence. What is the subtopic, or what claim are you making?
 - Context or Evidence (the veggies): Explain your claim and provide support (direct quotes or paraphrases with citations).
 - Reasoning/Explanation (the meat): Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize how your quotes or ideas connect to the overall topic and individual argument. This is where your thoughts and explanation are key!
 - Conclusion Sentence (the bottom piece of bread): Restate the main idea or takeaway.
- **Conclusion:** Not having 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. Restate the main sub-points covered throughout your paper and end by showing what the one most important point is that people should remember.

Editing and Submission: Before you submit your report, read it over for clarity. We recommend reading your report out loud to help catch unclear phrasing and some common grammatical errors.

If you are struggling with a report, reach out to Headquarters for ideas and guidance. We can work with you to make an outline or read a draft of your report. When you submit a report, Headquarters may send it back for edits; this is not a critique of you as a person but to point to specific ways that you can improve your writing. The path to becoming a good writer is not linear; you are continually improving each time that you write. See *Submitting Reports* for more information.

Submitting Reports

All reports and verification forms will be submitted through email to amleague@ssionline.org with the following labeling system:

- **Labeling:** Both your email subject and the document you upload should be labeled with your name, the assignment number, and the report type. For example, if you submit your 2nd interview, you would label it as *John Smith 2nd Interview Report* even if it was your tenth completed report.
- **Format:** All reports should be submitted as a Word document or PDF. Note that Google docs are not acceptable and they will be sent back for edits.
- **Verification Forms:** Experience and Take Action Reports require a signed verification form. Please scan or take a picture of the completed form and upload them as either a PDF or as a JPEG. See the *Verification Form Packet* in your binder for more details.

Submission Status: Once your report/verification form is submitted, Headquarters will respond in one of three ways:

- **ACCEPTED:** This means that your report/verification form has been accepted, and you have received the point for the assignment. Each report will include some grammatical or structural feedback; please read this carefully for tips on how to improve.
- **PENDING EDITS:** This means that your report requires edits before it can be accepted. This may be because of grammatical errors, failing to meet an assignment requirement, improper citations, or failing to address an issue discussed in a previous submission. You will be able to make changes and resubmit your report as many times as necessary.
- **PENDING DOCUMENTATION:** This means that your report has been accepted but it is pending another submission before it can be accepted (i.e. submitting a signed verification form).

Evaluation Guidelines

In addition to the individual assignment guidelines found in this packet, there are some general evaluation guidelines for all reports.

General Requirements:

- All reports with two exceptions must be between 500 and 1000 words.
 - Ambassador League Experience Report must be between 1000 and 2000 words.
 - Written Public Discourses must be at least 150 words long.
- All reports must follow APA style (formatting and citations).
- All reports that contain plagiarism or were created with generative AI will not be accepted and asked to be re-written.
- All reports must be submitted by August 22, 2026.

Writing Guidelines:

- **Be straightforward:** Language should be clear, concise, and uncomplicated.
- **Use formal writing conventions:**
 - Avoid contractions (don't, can't), acronyms (lol, atm), and slang words (cool, bet, etc.).
 - Avoid second- and first-person pronouns (I, you, me, we, etc.) except when writing about your own experience.
 - Avoid meta commentary (“in my opinion” or “I think that.” “In this report I am going to show you...”, “This report is going to explain...” or “I hope you enjoyed reading this report and understand now how...”).
- **Grammatical errors:** Reports that contain more than ten grammatical errors will be sent back for edits. See the *Grammar Guide* included in your Agent Binder for more information.

Plagiarism

What is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism is the use of content that is not original to you, or the use of content without proper credit to the original author. There are several forms of plagiarism including:

- **Copy and Paste:** Taking another person's content word for word without giving credit to the original author.
- **Paraphrase:** Taking someone else's ideas and simply rephrasing them in your own voice without giving credit to the original author.
- **Self-Plagiarism:** Recycling one of your own works without creating new content.
- **False Authorship:** Having someone else, or something else, create your work for you. This includes using generative AI (like Chat GPT) to do your writing for you.

All forms of plagiarism are academically dishonest 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. Third, it is disrespectful to Headquarters and a waste of time for you. In both high school and college, plagiarized papers are not graded, and repeated offenses can result in expulsion. **Headquarters will not accept plagiarized reports regardless of the severity, and any plagiarism or made with generative AI will need to be rewritten.**

Quoting and Paraphrasing Correctly

Outside sources can be (and should) be used in your reports. To prevent plagiarism, we need to quote or paraphrase the author's work correctly and give proper credit to the original author. A **direct quote** is when you include the author's words or ideas verbatim and give them credit for those words or ideas. A **paraphrase** is when you summarize the author's original idea or condense their idea to be more concise or understandable, and you give the original author credit. It is not taking someone's ideas and rephrasing them as your own.

To demonstrate the difference, below are examples of a direct quote, paraphrase, and incorrect paraphrase of the following quote from Francis Chan: *"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 yours.' 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.'"*

- **Direct Quote 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 yours.' 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.'"*
- **Correct Paraphrase Example:** *Francis Chan asserted that we put far too much emphasis on what we think and believe instead of what God says.*
- **Incorrect Paraphrase 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...*
 - Here, the writer simply copied the quote using different words rather than condensing, referencing, or expanding on Chan's thoughts and did not give him credit for the original ideas.

APA Style Guide

Format

All Agents and Special Agents are required to use APA style in their reports. This guide is to provide a framework for you to exercise your creativity. Additionally, most colleges and universities use APA format, so learning this style will provide you with a significant edge in the future. Below is the outline of all the major requirements that Headquarters asks you follow.

Basic Information

All reports should:

- Use Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, double-spaced, and include a cover page.
- Have paragraphs in a basic block style being left justified, without indentations, and having one enter space between paragraphs.
- Have 1-inch margins (top, bottom, left, right).
- Include page numbers at the top right corner of every page.
 - To do this in Microsoft Word:
 - Go to the “Header & Footer” section
 - Click on the “Page Number” dropdown
 - Click on “Top of Page” and select the option that moves your page number top right corner

Cover Page

This should be the very first page of your report, and it should include five basic pieces of information in the following order:

- 1) Report Type and number of report submitted for the given category.
- 2) Your name
- 3) The institution (Ambassador League)
- 4) The person accepting your report (The Ambassador League Coordinator)
- 5) Your submission date

Example:

Page 1

3rd Book Report: *The Case for Christ*

Joseph Cecil
Ambassador League
Grace Anne Rosbury
October 4, 2025

Citations

In order to prevent plagiarism and give author's correct credit, any time that you use an outside source in your report must include a citation.

In-Text Citations: In-text citations are included in the body of the paper itself to give the reader a basic location of the work you are referencing. Follow your quote, reference, or paraphrase by adding a set of parentheses that include the citation between them.

- **Books or Online Resources:** (*Author LAST NAME, p. page or paragraph number*)
 - Ex: "To the cry of justice, the ears of a monarch should be open at every time, place, and circumstance" (Scott, p. 179).
- **Bible:** (*Book Chapter: Verse*)
 - Ex: "For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).
- **Interview:** (*Interviewee LAST NAME, Month and Year of Interview*)
 - Ex: "LEAD changed my life" (Smith, July 2024).

Works Cited Page: The works cited page is a collection of every source consulted during the writing of the report. This includes the work directly quoted or paraphrased and any work that influenced your thinking that you did not directly quote or paraphrase. It should be at the very end of your report and is not counted toward the final word count. Citations should be in alphabetical order by last name.

- **Book:** *Author Last Name, Author First Initial (Publication Date). Name of Work.*
 - Ex: Scott, W (1825). The Talisman.
- **Website:** *Author Last Name, Author First Initial (Publication Date). Name of Work. Retrieved From URL on Date When Resource Was Retrieved.*
 - Ex: Sproul, R.C, (2022). Duty and Honor. Retrieved from <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/duty-and-honor> on August 8, 2024.
- **Interview:** *Interviewee Last Name, Interviewee First Initial (Date of Interview).*
 - Ex: Smith, J (July 7, 2024).
- **Bible:** *Holy Bible, Translation Version (Version Publication Year).*
 - Ex: Holy Bible, ESV (2001).

For more information on citations and APA format, we recommend Purdue's Online Writing Lab: www.owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/index.html

For help with creating a citation, you can use www.calvin.edu/library/knightcite/index.php.

Assignment: Tactics

Objective

To help you strategically navigate the entire program as you plan and evaluate your progress.

Requirements

- **Agents and Special Agents:** Complete all 3 assignments.

Assignments

Plagiarism Paragraph

Objective: To recognize the importance of what plagiarism is and how to avoid it.

Instructions: Write a paragraph (minimum of five sentences) 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 in APA format. This shows Headquarters that you understand the importance of academic honesty and demonstrates your commitment to respecting yourself as an academic writer. *Note: You will not receive any points for reports submitted until your Plagiarism Paragraph has been submitted. To submit your paragraph in a PDF or Word document and send it to Headquarters.

Assignment Timeline

Objective: To create a tentative plan for how you will finish Ambassador League.

Instructions: Using the Assignment Timeline provided in your Agent Binder (or available electronically here), create a tentative plan for how you will finish Ambassador League. Reminder: all reports must be submitted by Saturday, August 22, 2026. To submit, please send a picture or scan of your completed plan to Headquarters.

Monthly Check-in Calls

Objective: To create monthly goals and encourage one another throughout the program.

Instructions: Each month there will be a Zoom check-in calls (two per month in Oct and Jan, and one per month Nov, Dec, Feb, Mar, Apr, May). You must attend at least four calls throughout the year. Keep track of the calls that you attend on the Check-In Call form (found in the Verification Form Packet). When you have completed all four meetings, send a scan or photo of the form to Headquarters. No report is required. A schedule for October-May calls will be released in mid-September.

Assignment: Read

Objective

To gain strategic wisdom from a variety of authors and to build a framework for understanding how to interact with the world as an effective Ambassador for Christ.

Requirements

- **Agents:** Read one book from BOTH the Action and Apologetics categories and submit a report on each.
- **Special Agents:** Read one book from EACH category and submit a report on each.

CATEGORY I: Action

Just Do Something: A Liberating Approach to Finding God's Will (Kevin DeYoung, 2014)

OR

Do Hard Things (Alex and Brett Harris, 2008)

CATEGORY II: Apologetics

Street Smarts: Using Questions to Answer Christianity's Toughest Challenges (Greg Koukl, 2023)

OR

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)

OR

Mere Christianity (C.S. Lewis, 1942)

CATEGORY IV: American History

Defending the Declaration (Gary Amos, 1989)

OR

Magna Carta: Muse & Mentor (edited by Randy Holland, 2014)

* **Note:** You may not submit more than one book report per category. It is not mandatory that you purchase books. We recommend using your local library or buying the books used. A good place to check for used books is thriftbooks.com.

Writing a Book Report

Book reports should summarize the book, analyze the major principles, and give your opinion about whether it was a good book. While you read, remember that an author almost always has one or two central themes they write about. This is the material you should focus on rather than spending a little bit of time on each chapter. In every book the author tries to communicate meaning and value to the ideas that they hold. Your task, then, is to take that communication of ideas and find out how the author's words can and should impact people.

To help you do this, be proactive with your analysis and ask some key questions as you read.

- 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?

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.

Requirements

- **Agents:** Write one report on each of the first four topics (What is the Bible, Lordship of Christ, Imago Dei, and Self Control).
- **Special Agents:** Write one report on each of the eight topics.

Assignment Topics

1. **What is the Bible:** Who wrote the Bible and what was the purpose in writing it? Is the Bible still relevant to today's culture? Can the Bible be used to discern truth from falsehood? How so? What claims does the Bible make about itself (truth, inerrancy, purpose, etc.)?
2. **Lordship of Christ:** What is Lordship? What does Christ say about His Lordship? How is His Lordship demonstrated in Scripture? What is He Lord over? How do His deity and humanity factor into His Lordship? What should be our response to this?
3. **Imago Dei:** What does it mean to be made in God's image, and why does this matter? How does this influence our responsibility for how we treat others and how we steward our own lives? How does this effect our view of issues like the nature of man, the value of human life, and gender?
4. **Self-Control:** What is self-control? How do we see it discussed in Scripture? What examples of self-control or a lack of self-control can be found in Scripture? What are the consequences for a lack of self-control?
5. **Justice and Mercy:** What is the definition of justice? What is the definition of mercy? Compare and contrast them. How does God exhibit each? Is one given more weight than the other? How are individuals and society supposed to demonstrate justice and mercy?
6. **Government as an Institution:** What is the role of the government as an institution in the world? What does God give the government authority over? What is the difference between moral law and a government's legal structure? What, if any, rights are the government granted that the individual is not?
7. **A Christian's Responsibility to the Poor:** What responsibilities does a Christian have to respond to the needs of the poor and underprivileged in our communities? What are the responsibilities of the church and of the government? Are there ways that these overlap or are they separate?
8. **Sanctity of Marriage:** How does the Bible define marriage? What are the purposes of marriage? How is marriage structured in the Bible? What are the distinctions between marriage and other relationships? How does sexuality affect our view of marriage?

Writing a Biblical Research Report

Your main goal in these reports is to answer one question: “If I only used Scripture to study this issue, what would be the result?” These are not opinion pieces about what you personally believe nor are they analysis of another person’s commentary. Instead, the report should take a claim and seek to support that claim with evidence from Scripture. You may use other outside sources, but Scripture should be your primary and most relevant source.

There are a few ways to structure your report. You could focus on the overarching theme and include multiple verses from Scripture; or you could focus on one or two key passages on the topic. In either case, use the following questions as a guide:

- What passages explicitly talk about this concept?
- What passages implicitly talk about this concept?
- What is the context for what was said?
- How often is this reiterated in Scripture?
- How does this concept connect to other issues in Scripture?
- How is this concept discussed in different parts of Scripture?
- How should this be applied into today’s context?

While your report should include quotes and paraphrases from the Bible or outside sources, you should not need to ‘pad’ your report with long quotes to meet the length requirement. Instead, take long passages and summarize them or simply give the references. Only 20% of your report 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 majority of the report should your analysis of what Scripture says and explaining the logical connections between related topics in Scripture.

Assignment: Experience

Objective

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

Requirements

- **Agents and Special Agents:** Complete each of the assignments in each of the categories (Programmatic, Observations, and Volunteer). *Note: Agents must get at least 10 hours of non-profit volunteering. Special Agents must get at least 20 hours of non-profit volunteering.
- **Verification Forms:** All Observation and Volunteer assignments must have a signed verification form submitted with the report to be accepted.
- **Volunteer Organization Approval:** all organizations must be approved by Headquarters to ensure they meet the specific requirements.

Assignments

There are three assignments in this category (Programmatic, Observations, and Volunteering). See each assignment for specific requirements.

Programmatic: LEAD and Ambassador League Experience

Objective: To reflect on your LEAD and Ambassador League experiences, how it impacted you, and understand the importance of pushing yourself past your comfort zone.

Instructions: Write a separate report on your experience at LEAD and throughout Ambassador League. Both should describe what you did, what you learned from it, and how you grew through it.

*Note: The Ambassador League Experience Report should be final report that you submit and is double the normal length requirements (1000-2000 words).

Observations: Legislative Session and Committee Meeting, Local Meeting and Judicial Trial, and Job Shadow

Objective: To see your local and state government at work and to gain a greater appreciation for each.

Instructions: Attend and observe each of the following meetings below and write a report on each.

Please note: local meetings, judicial trials, and the Legislative calendar are subject to change and should be completed before summer recess (typically in June). We highly recommend that you reach out before you attend to make sure that there are multiple meetings happening the day you plan to go. For the Legislative Session and Committee Meeting, reach out to Headquarters to let us know beforehand when you will be observing so we can help answer any questions and help confirm the schedule for the day.

- **Legislative Session and Committee Meeting:** Attend at least one Legislative Session AND one Committee meeting of the State House or Senate. You may split this observation between two visits, but you should only submit one report.
- **Local Meeting and Judicial Trial:** Attend two local meetings, two judicial trials, or one of each, and write a report on each experience. Each of these events must be distinct and not a part of the same event.
 - **Public Judicial Trial:** Eligible trials include any hearing held in a real courthouse with a real judge or official referee of the court (examples: a civil trial with a jury, mediation/arbitration, or a judge sentencing civil infractions).
 - **Local Meeting:** Eligible meetings include 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 (examples: school board, city council, county board of commissioners, library board meeting, etc.)

- **Job Shadow:** Shadow A LOCAL LEADER for one day in a field of interest. You should plan on spending a portion of your day with this person; you will need to be able to explain what they do, what you observed, and why the career interests you.
 - Local: means living and/or working within an hour of you. What this person does should affect your community. This person should be outside your relational sphere (meaning, you cannot shadow a family member) but you may know the 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.
 - 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.

Volunteer: Non-Profit Organizations and Political Campaigns/Public Policy Groups

Objective: To engage with your community and world in a way you have not before.

Instructions: Volunteer 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. For each type of volunteering, submit your report and your signed verification form. If you split up your volunteering hours, do not send in your report or verification forms until you have completed all your required hours. **Before you begin volunteering with any organization, you must submit an approval form to Headquarters** (found at ssionline.org/ambassador-league/resources) to make sure the organization falls within the specific criteria. If you begin volunteering before the organization is approved, your hours may not be counted for the assignment.

- **Non-Profit Organizations:** Volunteer for at least 10 hours for Agents or 20 hours for Special Agents at any local non-profit organization (within an hour of you). For both Agent and Special Agent, at least half of the hours must be with an organization primarily seeking to serve the community's underprivileged, poor, at risk, or otherwise challenged individuals. *Note: Volunteering for your own church (for example, handing out bulletins before service) or going on a mission trip does not qualify.
- **Political Campaign or Public Policy Group:** Volunteer for at least 10 hours with an organization(s) that meets the following criteria:
 - Political Campaigns: a group that advocates for a candidate running for an elected office or a specific ballot proposal. This includes working with a specific person or organization or specific ballot proposal purpose prior to or on election day. *Note: working at the polls on election day does not qualify.
 - Public Policy Groups: a group that advocates for policy changes or seeking to change public opinion or the opinion of the legislature. These groups are not bound to an election cycle. These include lobbyist groups or informative groups like the Mackinaw Center, Citizens for Traditional Values, Right to Life, Michigan Family Forum, Alliance Defending Freedom, Midwest Strategy Group, Salt and Light Global, Ducks Unlimited, and the American Legislative Exchange Council.

Safety

When you are traveling, job shadowing, interviewing, or volunteering, be mindful and take safety precautions. As a general precaution, try to make sure that an adult knows what you are doing, where you are going, and sees what you are doing.

Writing an Experience Report

In each report, describe your experience including your personal observations on each event and what you learned from it. The focus of the report should be on what you observed and learned and not your opinion on what took place. Below is a list of guiding questions that each report should answer. Additionally, there are specific questions for each experience that can help guide your thinking.

General Questions

- What did you do, or what did you observe?
- What were your expectations before, during, and after the experience?
- What did you learn during the experience? Did anything surprise you as you went along?
- What is your greatest takeaway from the experience? Did it impact you or change your thinking?

Programmatic: LEAD and Ambassador League Experience Reports

- What did you do during the week? What were some of your favorite assignments/aspects?
- What growth do you see in yourself? Were you surprised by anything that you learned about yourself during the experience?
- Would you recommend LEAD or Ambassador League to other students and why?

Observations: Legislative Session and Committee Meeting, Local Meeting and Judicial Trial, and Job Shadow

- **Legislative Session:** Which legislative body did you observe (House or Senate)? What did you notice about the Representatives or Senators (how did they conduct themselves)? What was discussed during the session?
- **Committee Meeting:** What committee did you observe (Appropriations, Education, etc.)? What issues or bills were discussed? Did any members of the public present?
- **Judicial Trial:** What type of trial did you observe? What happened during the trial? What did you notice about the role of justice in our society? What did you learn about our justice system?
- **Local Meeting:** What type of meeting did you observe? How many people were present? What was discussed? What issues or affect will the decisions have on your local community? What did you learn about the importance of being engaged in your community?
- **Job Shadow:** Give a brief biography of the person, what they do, and how they are a leader. Describe your day with the person. What did they spend their time doing? What did you learn about their profession? Who/what are they managing? What do they do on a daily basis? How does what they do affect your community? After spending a day with the person, is their career something you are still interested in pursuing?

Volunteer: Non-Profit and Political Campaign/Public Policy Group

- Describe the organization, what they do, and why you chose to volunteer there. How did you get connected with the group?
- Will you continue to volunteer there, or would you recommend that others volunteer there?
- What impact does the organization have on society? How does this group specifically help the underprivileged, poor, at risk, or otherwise challenged individuals, or what candidate or platform are they trying to promote?

Assignment: Take Action

Objective

To step out of your comfort zone, engage your local community, and learn about practical leadership.

Requirements

- **Agents:** Complete Promote LEAD, one oral and one written Public Discourse, and two Interviews.
- **Special Agents:** Complete Promote LEAD, two oral and two written Public Discourses, and four Interviews.
- **Verification Forms:** Oral Public Discourse and Promote LEAD assignments must have a signed verification form submitted with the report to be accepted.
- **Forum Approval:** Public Discourse forums (both oral and written) must be approved by Headquarters before you submit the article.

Assignments

There are three assignments in this category (Promote LEAD, Public Discourses, and Interviews). See each assignment for specific requirements.

Promote LEAD

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

Instructions: Promote LEAD for about five minutes in an organized event that has at least ten people. (homeschool groups, youth groups, schools, churches, etc.)

In your presentation, you should explain what LEAD is, what you did during the program, and what the program means to you. Think of this less as a commercial for LEAD and more of a presentation or testimony explaining how it has impacted you. How you do the presentation is up to you (with a visual aide and detailed script or giving a short testimony about how God impacted you at LEAD). After you give your presentation, submit a report about what you did, how you prepared, and what you learned through the experience. You must submit a signed verification form to achieve the point.

Public Discourses

Objective: To engage with your community on different relevant topics and call them to take action.

Instructions: Write an article or give an oral presentation to your local community to take action about an issue that is affecting them in a place that they will see it.

- **Forum Guidelines:** The forum must be linked to a reputable organization that is specifically geared to reaching members of your community. The forum cannot be self-published (i.e. if you chose to make a social media post, it cannot be for your personal page).
 - All forums must be approved by Headquarters through the form on the Resources Page.
 - Examples: article submissions, newsletter items, letters to the editor, submitting a testimony to a State House or Senate committee, writing to a local newspaper or school board newsletter, giving a presentation at a city council meeting, Lion's club, or other local meeting.
- **Oral Presentation:** Must be at least 5 minutes in length. To achieve the point, you must submit a signed verification form and a written outline of what you presented.
- **Written Submission:** Must be at least 150 words. You do not have to be published by the forum to achieve the point but submit to Headquarters what you submitted to be published. You should be writing the article and not asking a newspaper or company to write an article for you.

Interview Local Leaders

Objective: To meet influential people in your community, learn what leadership looks like in a variety of careers, and how different leaders think and practically lead others.

Instructions: Interview local leaders from different occupations with the focus on what leadership looks like in different fields. Try to interview leaders both in fields that interest you and fields that are unfamiliar to you. Then, write a report including a brief biography of the person, how they are a leader in your local community, and what you learned from the interview. This should not be a transcript (word-for-word copy) of what was said during the interview, but rather a synthesis of who they are and what you learned. *Note: you may Interview and Job shadow the same person; you will need to submit separate reports to get the correct point in each category.

To meet the requirements for this assignment this person must be:

- **Local:** living and/or working within an hour of you. What the person does should affect your community. This person should be outside your relational sphere (meaning, you cannot interview a family member) but you may know the person. If you are interested in interviewing someone you already know, ask whether that person can recommend someone in the area who holds a similar position in that career.
- **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.

Here are some questions you may want to ask in your interview:

- Explain your role within this organization.
- What are the greatest rewards of your job?
- What are the biggest challenges?
- What is your favorite and least favorite part of your job?
- What role, if any, does your faith play in your profession?
- How do you engage with the local community in your job?
- How would you define a good leader?
- What are some qualities that a leader should have?
- What is the most important skill a young person should have when seeking a leadership role?

Safety

When you are traveling, job shadowing, interviewing, or volunteering, be mindful and take safety precautions. As a general precaution, try to make sure that an adult knows what you are doing, where you are going, and sees what you are doing.