

What is a Contemporary Presentation and how will it be marked?

A contemporary presentation, firstly, is not something that you will need to do in front of the class (and all the introverts said “hallelujah”!). Rather, it is a piece of written work that is submitted through Moodle as with all other assessments. It can take many forms that will be listed below, but essentially, it is you taking a set scripture, exegeting it (studying it academically), summarising its message, and then presenting this to a modern audience.

Your task is to think of a precise, relevant audience, people that we would find in our modern context (e.g. women or youth in Sydney, young teens in the western suburbs, elderly people in retirement homes) and present the message in a way that would clearly communicate to them (so writing a rap song for the retirement home would probably not be very practical). The exercise here is to show understanding of your message from an academic perspective, but also an understanding of your audience by being able to communicate it to them in a relevant way.

This could take a number of forms: a sermon, a devotion, a song, a poem, a picture, a kid’s book, or any other sort of creative expression. Listed on this Moodle page are a few examples of these, but here are some guidelines for writing them.

- **A sermon:** is essentially an exegesis written in the form of a sermon. You are not expected to record yourself preaching (though you can if you wish), you just need to write out the sermon full length showing your research.
- **A devotion:** see the example on Moodle. Think of the devotions you have read in the past and create something similar. Again, show your research throughout, but present it in a reflective, encouraging way.
- **A song or a poem:** write out the lyrics but they need to be accompanied with a basic exegesis of how you came to the words that you did, showing your research and how this is reflected in the lyrics.

But we want you to be creative, so use your imagination. A few important things to note though: This is first and foremost an academic paper, so it must include a title page, proper referencing, scholarly engagement, and a bibliography. The language will often be more colloquial, but it will be marked on its academic level.

Some of you will say, “but I can’t write music or preach a sermon, what could I do?” you could do something simple like a devotion. In other words, take your exegesis and convert it to a more reflective, devotion style piece. The paper itself will be marked on its level of academic skill as well as its relevance to the audience. If you can only write a devotion you will not be marked less than the person who writes a no. 1 hit on iTunes. But if you can write the no. 1 hit on iTunes, do it!! This is your opportunity combine your gifts with your academic abilities to present the message into your world.

At a scholarly level, you are expected to engage (to varying degrees depending on the level of the subject, i.e. BIB100-300) with the leading scholars from various church traditions on that particular subject. See the document regarding “what is good biblical scholarship?” that is part of this Moodle page for more information about this. You are then required to present a quality piece of academic writing that addresses all the points as set out in the marking grid.

At a structural level, a contemporary presentation will vary significantly depending on the nature of the piece. In some cases, it will take the form of a “write up” rather than a properly structured essay. This means that an abstract, introduction, and conclusion are often not appropriate in the formal sense; however, it should be made clear at the start of the paper what the project is (i.e. a sermon, devotion, etc.). As with all assessments submitted to AC it requires a title page. Where appropriate, it should also contain headings that clearly set out the structure of the paper. Biblical texts, footnotes, abstracts, and bibliography are not included in the word count.

How will it be marked?

All of the contemporary presentations at AC will follow this marking grid (a tip: use the points in the marking grid to help frame your assignment):

<p>Passage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight the central message or theme of the passage • Discuss the social and historical context of the passage • Discuss the literary context of the passage • Passage discussed in detail 	/10
<p>Research and writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate academic sources used (6-10) • Proper referencing (correct style of footnotes and bibliography) • Correct grammar (it may use colloquial language, but it still needs to be legible) 	/5
<p>Application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern, relevant audience addressed • Appropriate method used for this audience • The message properly reflects the theme highlighted in the exegesis • The application/challenge is appropriate to this audience 	/10