

GoBusiness200 Essay Assignment

GoBusiness200, the School of Business Leadership's second-year course, is designed to increase your leadership and management skills and the reach of your ministry through the application of God's truths and a defined Christian worldview that distinguishes the differences between secular and biblical economics and business practices. The essay assignment is intended to stimulate creative thinking and aid the student in identifying their own places of personal transformation in these areas.

Essay Topics:

Students may write their essay on the topic of their choice, provided they are able to adequately incorporate the ideas and concepts of the GoBusiness curriculum. Please choose one of the following essay types:

1. **Write a reflective essay** on how the course has impacted your life. In considering your response, please incorporate impacts upon your perspective and relationships, as well as practical shifts in your business and daily life.
2. **Write a traditional essay.** This may be on a topic of your own choice or on one of the following pre-defined topics:
 - *What Is a Christian Business?*
 - *An Evaluation of an Economic Crisis From a Biblical Perspective*
 - *True Ethics in the Marketplace*
 - *The Keys to a Successful Business Life*
 - *God Pays for What He Orders*
 - *Explain how you have or plan to implement one of the key principles of GoBusiness, describing revelation, skill, resources and measures of success.*

Submission & Grading:

Please read the Essay Grading Criteria and Essay Guidelines pages for instructions on how to successfully complete this assignment. Your essay will be due at the end of the course; the specific due date can be found at the end of the list of lessons in your online course. Your essay should be submitted to the GoStrategic office and to your Facilitator by this date and is required to receive completion credit for the course and graduation status. After being evaluated by a senior Facilitator, the office will return your graded essay to you via email.

If you would like detailed instruction on the various aspects of writing an academic essay, such as how to write a bibliography, use footnotes, or cite quotations, GoStrategic has an excellent document called, *Preparing Your Essay* that is available by request. To be sent this resource at no charge, please email: info@gostrategic.org.

GoBusiness200 Essay Grading Criteria

1. Thesis:

- Is it clearly stated and specific?
- Is it accomplished?
- Is the organization of the paper clear?
- Is the thesis sufficiently “narrow” for a true argument?

2. Argument:

- Is it effective?
- Is it focussed?
- Does it flow logically and smoothly?
- Does it match the thesis?

3. Style/Content:

- What is the style (informative, passionate, personal, etc.)?
- Does the content include the use of GoBusiness material and is it applied effectively?
- Does the content match the thesis?
- Does the content include:
 - Specific examples?
 - Personal stories?
 - Creative thought?
 - Other?

4. Research/Support:

- Are they quality sources?
- Are they sufficiently broad?
- Are they both student and non-student sources?
- Are quotes of good quality?
- Are outside supports used effectively?
- Do supports aid or dictate the argument?

5. Grammar, Spelling, and Punctuation:

- Excessive mistakes?
- Poor patterns?

6. Additional Comments:

- Clear train of thought?
- Quality and agreement of introduction and conclusion?
- Depth of content?
- Good sentence, paragraph, and section structure?
- Overall impression?
- What sets this paper apart?

Essays will be graded on content, communication, demonstration of ownership of the student's vision, ideas, and ability to apply these ideas to current events or issues. Writing ability will not be the primary critique, however, creative approaches to this assignment, when done with excellence, are welcomed.

GoBusiness200 Essay Guidelines

Essay Requirements:

- Essays must be between 3-5 pages, typed, and double-spaced.
- References, citations, and quotes must be footnoted (end notes are an acceptable alternative as long as they are done consistently and according to a standard format).
- You must include a bibliography with a minimum of 3 credible sources. Your essay should draw from both curriculum and non-curriculum sources.
- Essays must have a clearly stated thesis appearing somewhere in the introduction. A thesis statement is the specific argument upon which the essay intends to focus. (Example: *This paper will show that the most effective changes in the local community start at the grass roots level.*) It should end with a strong conclusion that is relevant to the thesis.
- Essays must demonstrate a level of understanding of the course material studied throughout the year as it applies to the thesis.

Recommendations:

A statement of organization or structure for the paper should appear directly after the thesis.

Example: *This paper will show that the most effective changes in the local community start at the grass roots level. It will focus upon three specific community needs for which both the state and local residents have developed solutions. Then it will compare the effectiveness of the varying approaches.*

Creative thought should be included. Essays should demonstrate the unique perspective of the author. Personal and creative use and application of the course materials and other points of view are strongly encouraged.

Quotes should support your points. Do not include a quote in such a way that it introduces a key point and then use your own writing to support the quote's argument.

Correct Example: *Exercise is gaining popularity in the county. Many people find jogging to be beneficial to mind and body. As Chris Peters puts it, "Jogging not only lets me get in better shape, it really relaxes me and gives me peace of mind."*

Incorrect Example: *Exercise is gaining popularity in the county. As Chris Peters puts it, "Jogging not only lets me get in better shape, it really relaxes me and gives me peace of mind." Many people find jogging to be beneficial to mind and body.*

Criticisms to your argument that have or probably will arise from other perspectives should be recognized, but not focused upon. A simple acknowledgment and possibly a short rebuttal to criticism of your point of view is fine. Criticisms are often useful to help you make a transition in the direction of the paper, to help you emphasize your own point of view, or to introduce a new point for your arguments.

Statistics, examples from your own life, and historical examples are effective supports for an argument.

The conclusion to an essay should chronicle the progression of your argument from your opening statement through the body of your paper. This should be done in a general fashion and require only a paragraph or two, at most.

Consider:

Carefully choose the title of your essay. Make sure it reflects the heart of your argument. If you are answering one of the recommended questions, make clear which question you are addressing, though the question itself does not need to be the title of your paper.

Before writing your paper, a careful consideration of the organization and flow of your argument is essential.

Propose specific actions to address problems you identify in your argument.

The overall direction of your argument is very important. The main focus of your thesis should be presented in the introduction, developed throughout the body, and highlighted in the conclusion of your paper. A paper in which the introduction and conclusion do not show a continuity in focus has been poorly organized.

Each paragraph of the paper should focus on developing a single thought or theme of thoughts. A transition from one paragraph to the next that is easy to follow conceptually makes the paper much easier to read.

If the recommended course essay questions is too broad to be covered within an essay of this length, it may be necessary to narrow the focus of your thesis around a certain aspect of the question only.