

Liberty University

**Justification for Selected  
Micro-project Assignment**

A Paper Submitted to

Submitted to Dr. James Zabloski,

in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the completion of

Micro-Project II: Current and Historical Practices

DSMN 852 – B01

by

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1. *What is your cognate? Describe why you chose it.*

My cognate is discipleship. I have been a member of Southern Baptist churches for most of my life and have heard discipleship described and preached about many times.

However, my experience has been that there is not agreement of what it takes to be a mature believer and there are no metrics that have been developed to measure whether a person is a “mature believer”. I chose this cognate to satisfy my curiosity and to see if others had been able to describe a mature disciple as well as provide proven methods to create an effective disciple-making ministry.

2. *What is the Micro-Project you have chosen? Describe why you chose it.*

I will be choosing the Articles Critique micro-project this term in order to investigate what other academics are suggesting might be the cause of the lack of vitality in disciple-making in the American churches. I will be looking into the article writers’ thoughts about causes for current conditions and suggestions for modifications to improve disciple-making efforts. This micro-project will contribute an academic voice to my overall solution to the problem I am attempting to solve.

3. *What is the problem in your ministry area you are seeking to resolve?*

The problem I am attempting to resolve is that the multi-site mega-church where I serve does not exhibit the exponential growth that the early church experienced. I believe this is rooted in a lack of spiritual maturity among the believers and their lack of awareness of how to progress toward the spiritual maturity of a disciple. The church leadership has attempted several different strategies to build disciples but has not yet found one that has proven to be effective at developing mature disciples.

4. *How does your choice of micro-project align with your DMIN cognate?*

This micro-project aligns well with the Discipleship cognate as it allows me to investigate the current thought and practices of church leaders as they attempt to develop disciples as well as considering how the discipleship models are transforming from previous models. It will be interesting to see what others thought caused the need to move models and how the new models address these causes.

5. *How does your choice of micro-project align with scripture?*

The course description focuses on Current and Historical Practices. I will be researching articles that describe how people view devotion to God as described in the Shema (Deut 6:4-5), the Great Commandment and the New Commandment given in Matt 22:36-40, and the Great Commission given in Matt 28: 28-30. These verses provide the direction of foundational imperatives that set an individual's path toward becoming a disciple. In addition, I will be looking for articles that discuss how churches are helping to develop a passion for loving others and being guided into an intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit. Love for others is vital as described in John 15:5, where Jesus indicated that no spiritual work could occur separate from Him and Jesus' repeated calls for unity within the body of Christ. I will seek articles that address the state of unity among believers and how church leaders have sought to develop a stronger bond.

6. *How does your choice of micro-project align with your abilities, passions, and interests?*

It has been a lifetime passion of mine to develop effective solutions to problems that I am presented. I have taught virtually every age group within the context of traditional model "Sunday School" and in attractional model "home groups". My experiences have led me

to believe that our churches are not generally aware how to build biblical community or how to build disciples. I worked as a turnaround specialist in the corporate world and love to fix broken organizations. The church is broken in my opinion and worthy to have all my attention and effort to help realign it back to the place it operated during the time of its exponential growth.

7. *Summarize in your own words the assignment instructions for all four phases of your chosen Micro-Project.*

**Organization Phase** – identify at least 10 peer-reviewed journal articles from at least three different journals that address the questions that I am researching. Prepare a bibliography page in the proper Turabian form.

**Elaboration Phase** – write a synopsis or abstract of each of the 10 articles of at least one-half page per article. Provide a pro and a con observation per article that is not opinion and not written in the first person. Document the bibliographic information as well.

**Implementation Phase** – create a two page article draft for each of the 10 critiques in the prescribed format combined into one twenty page document. The articles should be in alphabetical order by author's last name.

**Culmination Phase** – a final critique will be compiled of at least twenty pages, which provides an overall analysis of the ten articles and how this analysis can be used in application to the ministry problem. This document has to be presented in a prescribed format provided in the micro-project instructions.

8. *How have you planned to complete each of the Micro-Project phases on time?*

I will search out a total of thirty to forty articles that address how the church has been approaching devotion development, unity within the church, and disciple-making within the last twenty years and the suggested effective measures that are currently being used. This work should be completed by February 6<sup>th</sup>.

I will then begin to write my critiques summaries and revise my thoughts after reading my classmates suggestions February 14<sup>th</sup>.

At that point, I will expand my critique writing and complete those documents by February 21<sup>st</sup>. I shall turn my attention to reviewing all that has been done and giving a final comment to this work in the Culmination Assignment that is due on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

9. *What is your greatest reservation or question regarding this selected micro-project?*

I am sure that searching out well written articles that address my questions will be challenging. Determining what search criteria to use is probably my greatest concern at this point. I am looking forward to discovering what others have done to address these problems in their context.