

Guidelines for case study presentations

In past semesters, your instructors have learned something about the value of the case study presentation method and also how it can go wrong. We offer these pieces of advice because they work.

- The group member whose case is selected for presentation should not be the primary presenter
- The presentation group should distribute the case sometime the week before it is presented – usually by posting it electronically or distributing it in class the week before
- Do not feel bound to select a “conflict” case – but choose any incident in which you had to think biblically and theologically, then make a decision and take action
- Demonstrate your biblical and theological thinking; do not simply list texts or mention a theological world view or clash of world views, but in your presentation talk about or demonstrate that wrestling that congregational leaders go through
- Make your presentation expecting responses of a wide variety – have fun anticipating the conversation that will follow rather than being worried about it

Guidelines for case study response groups

In past semesters, your instructors have learned something about how response groups generally respond to case study presentations. We want to encourage you to react to the presentation and also add your own reflections. Please try to do so bearing these suggestions in mind:

- As your group prepares for its response the week before, do your own biblical text and theological world view wrestling, both individually and as a group. Add these perspectives into the mix during your response, so that the class time which follows will be rich with interpretation and variety.
- Do not spend your time trying to agree upon the most effective solution for the case. This course is not entitled *Finding Effective Solutions to Problems in Ministry*. It is called *Exercises in Biblical Theology* because we want you to follow Luther’s instruction of “exercising yourselves in the Word” and doing the hermeneutic activity of interpreting the situation and the Word through your theology. Wonder aloud “What is God up to in this situation for the congregation?”
- By all means, have fun with your response and be neither apologetic for noting what the presenters may have overlooked nor smug in your tone. Attend well and assert clearly; remember, we are trying to build a habit of fruitful conversation which is often lacking in the Church, and your exercises here will be a long-term gift.