

# Biblical Worldview Scope Document (English 5)

**Introduction:** This document is our attempt to answer the question, “What must a student know and value in order to understand fourth grade writing and grammar from a biblical worldview?” What follows is a list of themes that we believe are important for students to know and internalize. We expect that early in the course students will be required to *recall* and *explain* these themes. However, as these themes are repeated, we plan to require students to *evaluate* ideas within them, *formulate* a Christian understanding of them, and *apply* what they have learned about these themes to real-life situations. We hope that students will show high levels of internalization whenever they are required to apply these themes.

## 1. Personality

**Summary:** explores a biblical view of personality so that writers learn appropriate ways to express their distinct voice.

Creation: No two people are identical. Each human being has a distinct personality by God’s design, a slightly different way of reflecting God’s image in the context of interacting with other people. With respect to writing, personality is how a person utilizes the conventions of language in ways that make him recognizable to his readers. When done according to the creational pattern, a writer’s personality will reflect aspects of God’s character that are appropriate for that writer, from his experience and perspective.

Fall: There are at least two ways people fail to express their personality as God’s image bearers—a radical voice and an undeveloped voice. Writers with a radical voice make personal expression their highest goal, even celebrating their failings and inviting readers to do the same. Writers with an undeveloped voice are dull. If no personality is coming through, the text will be dull and lifeless. Since we are all persons, a text without personality is hard to relate to.

Redemption: A biblical worldview provides the parameters in which students can learn the appropriate ways to freely express their personality. Specifically, the glory of God and the good of others serve as the biblical categories for appropriate expressions of personality. It is a good thing for writers to express their own personality when done in ways that reflect God’s truth, goodness, and beauty to those around them.

- **Action Points:**

- Recall that each person has a distinct personality.

- Explain how personality relates to writing.
- Evaluate ways that the fall has impacted the expression of personality in writing.
- Formulate a plan for appropriately expressing personality in writing.

## 2. Perception

**Summary:** develops the skill of perception based on a biblical view of reality so that students can evaluate and formulate various kinds of writing.

Creation: God created people with the capacity to perceive the world rightly by using his revelation to us as our reference point. When Adam and Eve relied on God's speech to them, they could perceive the trees of the garden accurately. Every form of writing has the potential of saying what is true without saying everything that can be said about a subject. Other people may have true perceptions that add to our own. The objective nature of reality, which we understand by Scripture, provides the basis for a writer's continued growth in perception.

Fall: While people still rightly perceive many things about the world, they no longer perceive as well as they should. Writers often express ideas and arguments that are contrary to objective reality. Some readers and writers dismiss objective reality all together. Such people become lost within a world of subjective opinion without any fixed reference point.

Redemption: A biblical worldview provides students with the fixed reference point necessary to perceive objective reality. It does not guarantee accurate perception in every case, but it does provide the standard by which students can grow in their skills of evaluating arguments and formulating their own. Students will improve in their writing as they learn to ground their subjective opinions in objective reality (Biblical Revelation). We will include in the instruction biblical teaching to help students see that the Bible provides the reference point needed for perception.

- **Action Points:**

- Recall that God created humans to perceive accurately in dependence on His Word.
- Explain the basis for a writer's continued growth in perception.
- Evaluate what happens when objective reality is dismissed.
- Apply the principle of objective reality to writing an opinion piece.

### 3. Precision

**Summary:** emphasizes the importance of a writer choosing and arranging fitting words to help readers understand the writer's precise meaning.

Creation: As Genesis 1 so clearly explains, God created the world with precise communication and calls his image bearers to write with precision. Writing with precision is a necessary component of the Creation Mandate. For humans to exercise dominion they need to communicate effectively which entails precision. By laboring for precision in writing, the writer is also showing love for neighbor—the reader.

Fall: Writers often make it difficult for the reader to understand their meaning, either through ambiguity or verbosity. Sometimes writers intentionally avoid precision because they are hiding the truth. Sometimes a text is difficult to understand because the writer was lazy in crafting the text. Choosing the most fitting words and carefully arranging them is hard work, even more so in the context of the fall.

Redemption: Christianity's ability to restore precision in writing is owing to its word-centric nature. Christians are people of the Word. Wherever Christianity has spread so has literacy, and with literacy precision in writing. Love of the truth, love of people, and fulfillment of the Creation Mandate provides Christian writers with motivation to strive for precision. We will show students how precision can make a positive difference in their writing, for the glory of God and for the good of others.

- **Action Points:**

- Recall that writing with precision is a necessary component of the Creation Mandate.
- Explain how precision in writing is related to love of neighbor.
- Evaluate ways writers make it difficult for readers to understand the meaning of their texts.
- Apply Christian motivations to writing with precision.

### 4. Pleasure

**Summary:** cultivates interest in the writing process by showing that writing can be a pleasure to the writer and to his readers.

Creation: God created the world for his own pleasure as well as for the pleasure of humans. The sabbath rest in Genesis 1-2 included taking pleasure in the finished work. God said his creation was good, which is a statement of pleasure. This is our model for our own work, including the work of producing texts. Writers reflect their Creator when they write with pleasure and for the pleasure of their readers. The hard work of clarifying and composing one's thoughts on paper is satisfying because it

is an act of creating. The writer's thoughts are now outside the writer, fixed on a piece of paper that others can enjoy with benefit.

Fall: Pleasure in writing has been distorted in at least three ways. One is the inability to find pleasure in writing; some students may find writing assignments boring. Another is the frustration that comes with clarifying and composing one's thoughts on paper. This can sap the pleasure out of writing for some. And finally, some writers may write for their own pleasure without regard for their readers.

Redemption: Writing with pleasure can grow with practice. A biblical view of this present world reminds Christians that frustrations and pleasure are not mutually exclusive. As students realize and accept this, they will be better equipped to push through the frustrations of writing and experience pleasure in their work. And as they focus more on the pleasure of their readers, that too will enhance their own pleasure. We will plan instruction that will show students how to enjoy writing even while finding it difficult.

- **Action Points:**

- Recall that writers reflect their Creator when they write with pleasure and for the pleasure of their readers.
- Explain why clarifying and composing one's thoughts on paper is satisfying.
- Evaluate ways that pleasure in writing has been distorted by the fall.
- Apply a biblical view of this present world to overcoming frustrations with writing.