

# The Seattle School

## OF THEOLOGY & PSYCHOLOGY

### Academic Writing Sample for Life Experience Applications

Life Experience applicants are required to submit an academic writing sample as a part of their Life Experience Portfolio. The academic writing sample provides a means to assess the applicant's ability to articulate their understanding of an idea present in a piece of academic writing, as well as their ability to effectively express their own ideas through writing. Writing samples will be assessed for form and technique and will be expected to meet graduate-level standards as described on The Seattle School's [Writing Resources page](#).

Life Experience Applicants applying to the MA in Theology & Culture and Master of Divinity programs are asked to complete the Novel/Reader Paper to meet the academic writing sample requirement.

### Academic Writing Sample Assignment

The Novel/Reader Paper is an essay that asks the student to consider and describe their own experience of *how they read*. Using a chapter entitled "[The Reader](#)" from Gabriel Josipovici's *The Book of God: A Response to the Bible*, connect his approach to your own experience as the reader of the last story you read. The story could be from a novel, a short story or a narrative blog post.

Submit a 250-500 word double-spaced essay describing your experience as the reader of your story of choosing. Engage the following questions: Where does this story impact you and why? How did the story impact your own understanding of "reading" as a process of discovery and growth? Having read the "the author" in light of Josipovici, what have you learned about how you approach the art of reading?

**Formatting Requirements:** Your essay must meet Chicago style citation requirements, as listed on The Seattle School's [Writing Resources page](#).

*Note: The Admissions Review Committee understands that you are being asked to write at a graduate level, even though you are not yet a graduate student. You are not expected to understand all of the terms or concepts addressed in this particular piece of writing, nor are you expected to complete this assignment perfectly. Instead, you are expected to do your best*

*and to exhibit your current capacity to follow instructions and to engage the presented material.*