

STEP 1: Go to *news.google.com* and pull up three recent news articles that have to do with religion. Each of your articles must be about a different religion.



STEP 2: For each article, write a ½ to 1 page expository response answering the following questions:

- What is the theme of the article? Briefly summarize what's going on.
- Is the religion described in the article ethnic or universalizing?
- Is the religion inclusive or exclusive?
- Is it poly-, mono-, or henotheistic?
- Is it fundamental, conservative, or liberal?

Be sure to explain why you answered the way you did. In other words, use evidence from the article to support your conclusions. Please note that your article may not explicitly answer some of these questions. If that's the case, you might need to do a little independent research and make some inferences about what's going on in the article. For example, an article about Catholicism probably won't say whether or not Catholicism is polytheistic or monotheistic, so you'll need to poke around some additional sources to figure out the answer. If you do rely on outside sources, be sure to cite them.

Not sure where to start? Here's an example:

Article Title: "Why I Left the Right: How Studying Religion Made Me a Liberal"

Author: Susie Meister

Article Date: February 23, 2018

The article details how a right-wing, evangelical Christian transformed his faith and politics—the author is raised as an evangelical Christian and in his early life is a strong supporter of right-wing politics, but as an adult, he underwent a doctrinal evolution that shifted his political beliefs to the left.

The author describes a brand of evangelical Christianity that is exclusive and universalizing. For example, the author discusses how his evangelical faith made a strong differentiation between followers and non-followers—non-followers and "liberals" (used here to describe politics, not faith) were blasphemers and had deviated from the path of righteousness. This suggests an exclusive religion, because the author's evangelicalism believed there was only one right path for good people to take.

Moreover, although the article does not expressly say so, evangelical Christianity is universalizing, because it seeks converts. For example, evangelical Christians proselytize by sending missionaries across the world to spread the faith and save non-believers.