Doctoral Major Project Artifact Manual

D.Min. Global Church-Based Theological Education

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ANTIOCH SCHOOL
OF CHURCH PLANTING AND
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

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Contents

Doctoral Major Project

An Antioch School doctoral major project is <u>not</u> intended to be a traditional academic dissertation. Rather, it is intended to be an artifact (tool) that is of immediate practical value in the support of church-based theological education for a specific church, network, and/or ministry organization.

The official description of the Antioch School Doctoral Major Project states that it is "the culminating product of the program and makes a substantive contribution to the progress of church-based theological education." In fact, it is the outcome of a program of study anticipated in the admissions process with qualifications such as "expressed interest in advanced development of competencies associated with understanding and making a substantial contribution to the implementation of the philosophical foundations of church-based theological education."

Like the culminating doctoral major projects in other institutions, the Antioch School doctoral major project artifact demonstrates a thorough understanding of a field of study (church-based theological education) and contributes to the field based on advanced and specialized expertise. These artifacts are unique and could only be produced by their authors as they are the leading experts for implementation of church-based theological education in their particular contexts.

The doctoral major project artifact will be produced according to four stages (represented by four courses and assessment processes in BILD Cloud):

> DPR901 Doctoral Major Project Idea. Consideration of major project ideas in light of biblical theology in culture (Leadership Series I core courses) and paradigm issues (PTPA's and Encyclicals).

> DPR902 Doctoral Major Project Proposal. Development of an approved proposal and outline for making a substantive contribution to church-based theological education.

> DPR903 Doctoral Major Project Rough Draft. Development of a rough draft of a substantive contribution to church-based theological education.

> DPR904 Doctoral Major Project Final Draft and Defense. Production of a final draft of a substantive contribution to church-based theological education, including a formal defense before peers and a doctoral project committee.

DPR901 Doctoral Major Project Idea. Consideration of major project ideas in light of biblical theology in culture (Leadership Series I core courses) and paradigm issues (PTPA's and Encyclicals).

Objectives:

1. Consider various ideas for the Major Project.
2. Select one idea for more serious consideration.
3. Anticipate the Major Project in terms of purpose, resources, research methods, format, and structure.
4. Obtain approval to proceed with the proposal/outline for the Major Project Idea.

Requirements:

1. Submit a 1-2 page (250-500 word) statement of the idea of the artifact you would like to do for you Major Project. The idea should include:
   a. The type of artifact (book, manual, course, implementation plan, dissertation, other) and the topic (1 sentence).
   b. The need.
   c. Possible mentors.
   d. Possible research to be done.
   e. Possible paradigm issues to address.

2. Participate in a seminar (or private discussion with faculty) for consideration of Major Project Ideas.

Assessment Criteria:

- Clarity. Is it crisp and readable?
- Ministry Relevance. Does it address a real need in one's ministry context?

Formats:

Do you intend to produce a book, manual, course, implementation plan, dissertation, or other type of artifact? There are important differences. For instance, many of the Ideas and Proposals refer to themselves as Manuals, but they are really Books because they are entirely a presentation of content without a structure that facilitates use of their parts.

1. **Book**. A book is primarily a presentation of ideas. It needs to flow logically and provide substantiation, both in terms of development of ideas and in interaction with other resources.

2. **Manual**. A manual is a reference tool that gives you what you need to implement, operate, and fix something. Thus, a manual should be organized for easy access to sections as needed. It probably should include assessment tools to diagnose problems and measure success.

3. **Seminar**. A seminar is much like a course, but tends to be shorter (1 day or less), is self-contained, but also connects to a larger ordered learning process.

4. **Course**. A course is characterized by a developmental process. It should contain substantial content (or refer to it elsewhere), but it is mostly about doing something with that content. It should have clear objectives/outcomes, lessons, and assessment tools related to those objectives/outcomes.

5. **Implementation Plan**. An implementation plan should be strong on details and logistics, but also on dealing with paradigm issues that need to be addressed in order to bring paradigm transformation that will support the Way of Christ and the Apostles.

6. **Dissertation.** Although most won't pick this option, you may do an exhaustive survey of literature in an area, identify a gap, and conduct a research project to fill in that gap.

7. **Other Types**. The books above will take the form of non-fiction, but it is possible that someone could produce a piece of fiction that makes a significant contribution to church-based theological education. Or you could produce a movie or some other non-written artifact for use by non-literates (and literates). Note that these types, as well as the others, may need to have sections that explain and support how they make their contribution to CBTE.

Although the artifact is the result of a thorough consideration of biblical theology in culture and paradigm issues, the artifact itself may not contain all of this content. It is likely that the artifact

will need to be accompanied by a supporting document that shows how your thorough consideration of biblical theology in culture and paradigm issues have shaped the artifact.

Comparison of Dissertations and Artifacts:

A **dissertation** typically has the following parts/chapters:

- Introduction (to give background)
- Literature review (to survey the field of research and identify a gap)
- Research proposal (to fill in the gap)
- Findings (to report on the research results)
- Conclusion (to summarize and point to next steps)

"Knowing more and more about less and less until you know absolutely everything about nothing!"

"A dissertation is something almost no one will ever read."

An Antioch School Major Project is an **artifact**:

- With practical value (think of it as a tool, not an academic paper).
- Needed by you, your church/network/organization and beyond.
- Something perhaps only you can provide because of your unique situation and position.

"Making a valuable contribution based on your unique abilities, situation, and perspectives."

"An artifact is something almost all leaders in your church/network/organization should use. In fact, it should be something that they are eagerly waiting to use."

Both are:

- Culminating products of thorough study of a field.
- Advanced research-based contribution to a field.

Common Critiques of Artifact Ideas:

Most people come up with good ideas. However, they usually have a shortcoming and/or need refinement as you proceed to the Proposal Phase. Here are some of the most common areas that may need development. You should carefully read and consider each of them, not just the ones to which attention may have been drawn in the comments posted with your BILD Cloud assessment. These items can be of great value in making progress in the next phase of development of your Artifact, helping it to be shaped into what it needs to be for maximum benefit to you, your church network, and beyond.

1. **Continuation of previous ministry.** There is nothing inherently wrong with continuation of previous ministry, except that it is easy to grab this idea without allowing yourself to think freshly based on the eye-opening nature of the BILD resources, your experience with others in the cohort, and the other needs of your network or organization.

2. **Not strategic enough.** Some seem to have picked topics because of personal interest and/or a sense of "do-ability." While there may be a matter of stewardship of time and energy, this is not primarily an academic exercise to obtain a paper credential. Members of a Competency Cohort were invited into this program because they can make significant contributions to their network or organization.

3. **Too comprehensive.** Some set out to provide a master plan for an entire country, network, or organization. However, they do not have a position of top leadership that calls for this sort of comprehensive effort. Thus, they need to be commended for this task by top leaders or find a significant, but less comprehensive contribution.

4. **Not comprehensive enough.** Conversely, top leaders probably should focus on more comprehensive matters, not smaller matters or things that could be done by others in their network or organization.

5. **No BILD influence.** Although you don't need to be explicit about the impact and role of BILD resources during the Idea Phase, you will need to do so in the Proposal/Outline Phase, so make sure to keep this in mind.

6. **No CBTE.** The Antioch School's Doctor of Ministry program has a focus on church-based theological education (CBTE). Although you don't need to be explicit about CBTE during the Idea Phase, you will need to do so in the Proposal/Outline Phase, so make sure to keep this in mind, particularly with the broad definition of CBTE used by BILD.

7. **Paradigm issues.** Again, although you don't need to be explicit about the paradigm issues during the Idea Phase, you will need to do so in the Proposal/Outline Phase. In most cases, your Idea is something that most people value and seems good to them. Then, why hasn't it already been done? You should attempt to identify (or propose research to find) the deep-seated reasons why your idea has not been accomplished already because these are likely to be paradigm issues that will be significant obstacles to the implementation of your Idea.

8. **Paradigm repentance.** It is tempting to point the finger elsewhere when identifying the paradigm issues that need transformation. However, it is likely that some of those paradigm issues are deep within you. For instance, why haven't you already had more impact in the area you have identified as your Idea. Perhaps it is because of external obstacles, but it is probably also due in part to internal issues, such as not being truly convinced of its legitimacy, choosing to take the easy way for years (and not being willing to pay the price), or not really understanding some aspect of the Way of Christ and the Apostles. Often, paradigm transformation in a network or organization begins with paradigm repentance by its leaders.

9. **Not merely implementation.** Some Ideas seem like ministry plans that simply call for the use of BILD resources in the manner suggested by BILD. Although you don't need to be explicit about it during the Idea Phase, you will need to do so in the Proposal/Outline Phase, so make sure to be thinking about how to dig into the paradigm issues and other unique logistical issues related to successful implementation in your context.

10. **Not integrated.** Often, an Idea is very narrow focused on an area of ministry. However, rarely can a ministry be effective in its area without being integrated well with other areas. For instance, the best youth ministry effort will fail if it is just youth ministry leaders working with youth. Youth ministry according to the way of Christ and His Apostles must be linked to the ministry of churches and families.

11. **Not church-based.** It is surprising how little emphasis on church is present in some Ideas. If the Idea is not closely linked to the central institution of the church (and church networks), then it will need to be addressed during the Proposal Phase.

Next Steps for Artifact Proposal/Outline:

1. **Discuss your Idea with the top leaders** of your church network or organization (and perhaps with the Competency Cohort or a subset). This is no mere academic exercise. You are producing an Artifact that needs to be of value to you and your context, but also beyond. God has provided these other leaders to provide guidance, insight, and feedback regarding your contribution. It is important that you have this interaction before you move too far, as it is likely that you will need to consider other Ideas. In many cases, the Competency Cohort itself will have dedicated time during its meetings to address Artifact Ideas.

2. **Start trying to identify paradigm issues** (or how you are going to find them). What deep-seated, perhaps previously unseen things, have been exposed through the use of the BILD resources? Why haven't you previously made progress in this area, even though you and others may have espoused support for it? What are the structural impediments to make progress? What are the theological impediments?

3. **Start thinking in terms of an outline.** What will your Artifact look like? How will it flow from beginning to end? What parts need to precede or follow other parts? What may be needed as appendices for an Artifact to support or explain its contribution? During the Proposal Phase, you should do serious work on a preliminary outline. If you master the outline process now, it will become your slave later and help you know how everything you are working on relates to your Artifact.

4. **What are the most relevant BILD resources to your Artifact?** In particularly, which Paradigm Papers, Encyclicals, and Leadership Series courses contribute the most to the shaping of your Artifact? How do others contribute in lesser, supportive roles?

5. **What research do you need to do?** What books, articles, and websites do you need to study to help you develop your Artifact? What field research do you need to do to show the need for your Artifact, help shape your Artifact, and establish a baseline for assessment of the impact of your Artifact?

6. **Proceed to PTP B courses.** You really should not go too far in your Proposal before you have finished your Leadership Series courses and PTP A's, and begun the PTP B process.