

SEMANTIC CONNECTIONS BIBLICAL INTEGRATION MODEL

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Reactive Approach

(BRAIN EXAMPLE)

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SOME REASONS FOR DEVELOPING INTEGRATION SKILLS

1. In a study recently (2007) reported in the Journal of Research on Christian Education the researchers found that:
 - a. 40% percent of the 121 textbooks analyzed across elementary, middle, and high school grades were public school textbooks.
 - b. Not many of the Christian published textbooks were rated highly regarding full biblical integration.
2. The court system in CA has upheld (ACSI v. Sterns, 2008) the decision of the State University system to not accept certain Christian school courses as counting toward admission requirements because courses in biology, English, government, history and world religions were academically inadequate. Expecting that other state university systems will follow suit, Christian schools are likely to adopt an even higher proportion of public school texts.
3. Yet currently only a small percentage of Christian educators are trained in integration skills.

INITIAL ASSUMPTIONS

A. Classification of Integration Approaches

Reactive Approach – This level of Biblical and/or Faith/Learning integration is named Reactive since it focuses on “reacting” to curriculum material already in use by the teacher.

This level is contrasted with a **Proactive Approach** of creating a new conceptual orientation to the content to be taught using the Bible as the primary guiding standard instead of the academic content per se.

B. Bible Relevance to Academics

The working proposition in this entire presentation is that the Bible is the Holy Spirit inspired Word of God and that it is relevant and applicable to both the life of the academician and to academics.

C. Caution about Greater Precision

Typically, anything that increases the power of understanding is accomplished by an increased potential for abuse. Accordingly, the great potential embodied in the Semantic Connections Model calls for great biblical fidelity and integrity.

PRE-ASSESSMENT TEXT MATERIAL

Evaluating the Great Society

President Johnson's dream to create the Great Society was a failure. Yes, individual programs did alleviate some effects of poverty. However, Johnson's goal to make America into a utopian society remains an unrealized dream. Liberal critics claimed that the president did not do enough; they said that he should have spent much more on his antipoverty programs. Conservatives claimed that it failed because government legislation and regulations are not sufficient to solve the nation's problems. Ultimately the individual is responsible for helping himself. Christians, of course, recognize that the root of society's problems is sin; only when this root problem is dealt with can society's problems as a whole be approached.

(Paraphrased from *United States history for Christian schools*, 2nd ed. (1999)
Bob Jones University Press.)

Name (optional): _____

Email address (optional): _____

Occupation/Grade Level: _____

Years as teacher: _____

Years in education profession: _____

Male: _____ Female: _____

Size of school: ___ <100 ___ 101-200 ___ 201-300 ___ 301-450 ___ 450+

**INTEGRATION PRE-ASSESSMENT
TOPIC: THE BRAIN**

Trigger	Integration Possibilities/Ideas

INTEGRATION TEACHING TEXT MATERIAL

INTEGRATION EXERCISE THE BRAIN

“The brain, which develops from ectodermic tissue, is one of the most wonderful parts of the human body. From the head, it interconnects with and controls many other body parts such as the eyes, ears, and nose. If the brain fails, the body fails. While the dependency of the physical brain upon the non-physical mind is not clearly understood, we do know that ‘A mind is a terrible thing to waste.’”

(Adapted from Exploring God’s World, 3rd ed. 1996, A Beka Books, p. 4)

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**Step #1-Identify Text
Connectors**

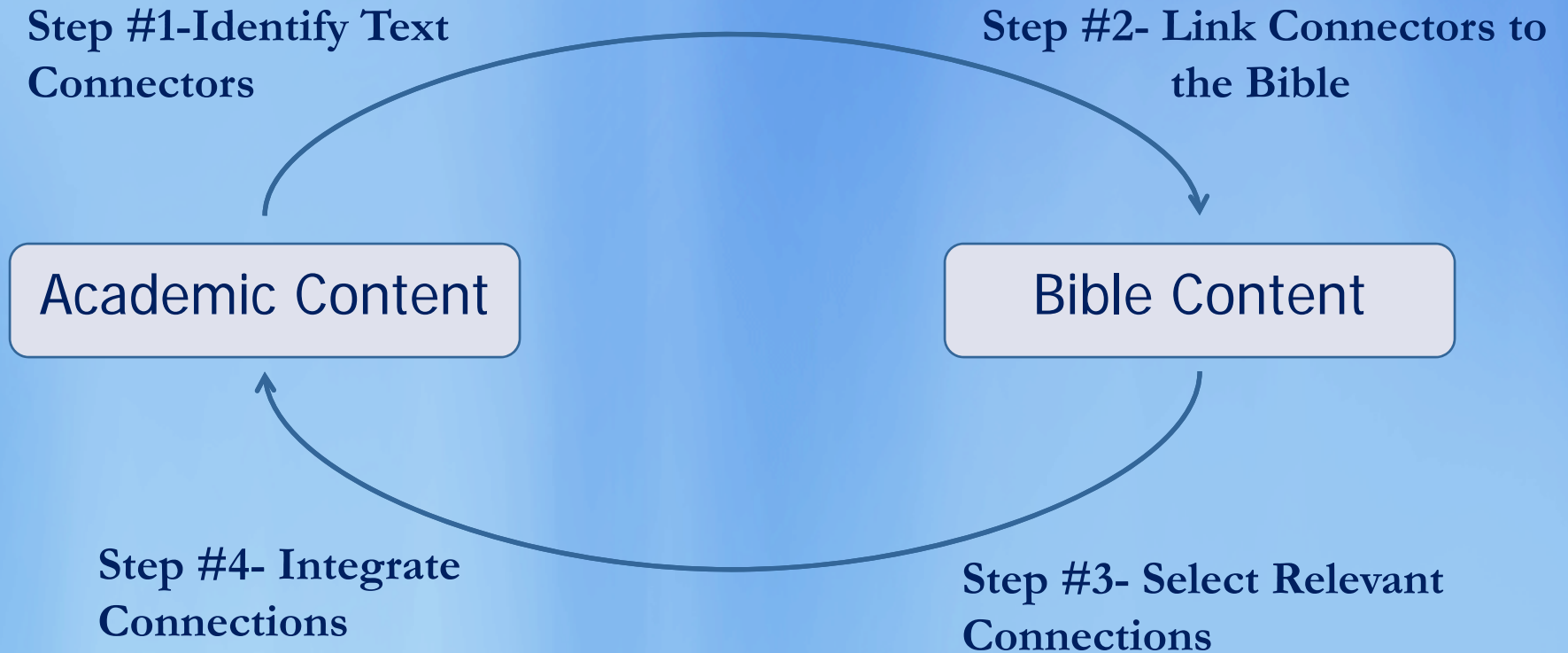
**Step #2- Link Connectors to
the Bible**

Academic Content

Bible Content

**Step #4- Integrate
Connections**

**Step #3- Select Relevant
Connections**

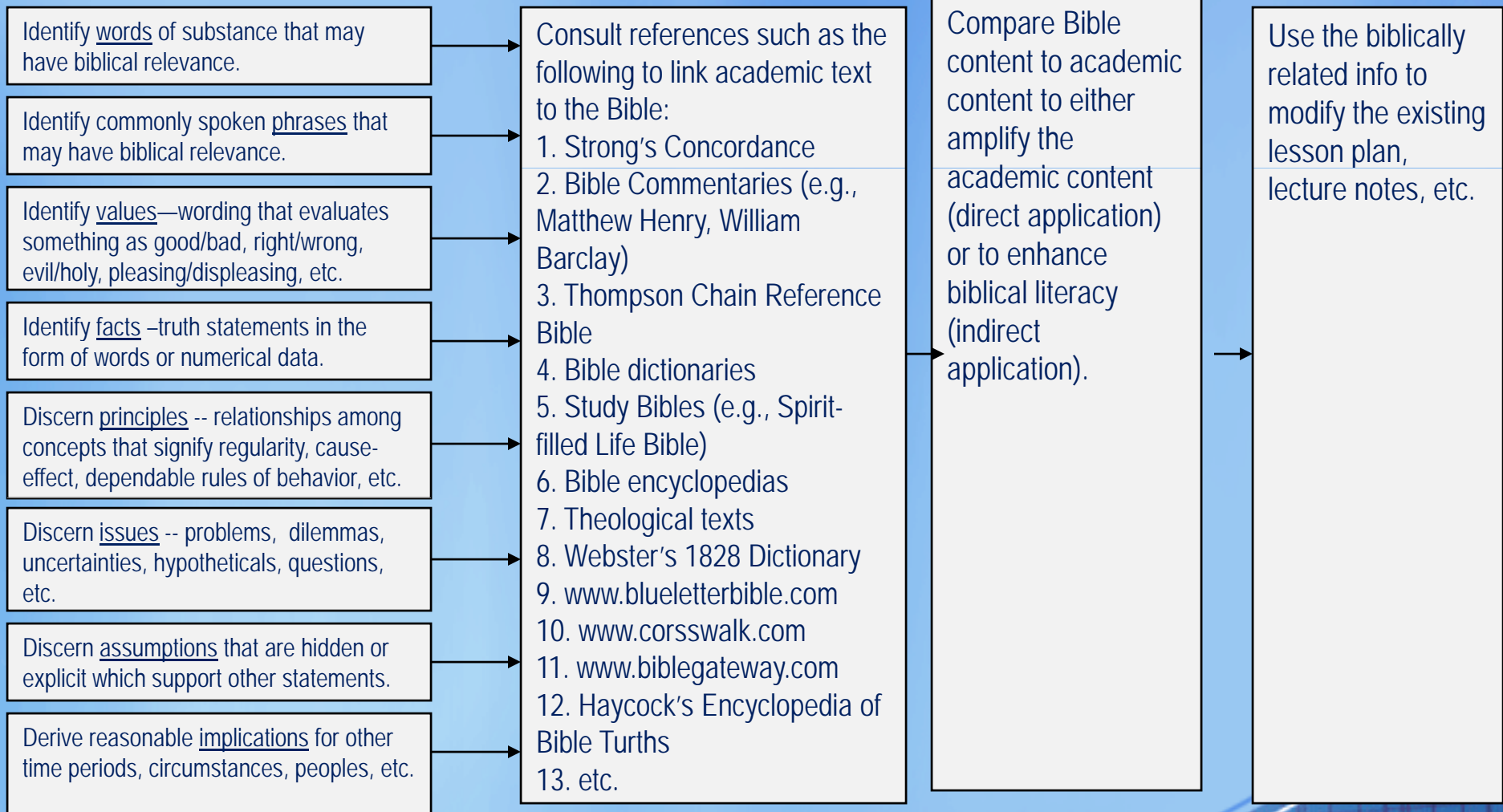


SEMANTIC CONNECTIONS BIBLICAL INTEGRATION MODEL

General Connecting Process
2008

1. Analyze Text for Potential Bible Connectors (8) → 2. Link Connectors to Bible → 3. Select Relevant Connections → 4. Integrate Connections

Memory Acrostic: We Purposely Value Fully Promoting Integrity About Integration



EXAMPLE CONNECTORS

"The brain, which develops from ectodermic tissue, is one of the most wonderful parts of the human body. From the head, it interconnects with and controls many other body parts such as the eyes, ears, and nose. If the brain fails, the body fails. While the dependency of the physical brain upon the non-physical mind is not clearly understood, we do know that 'A mind is a terrible thing to waste.'"

WORDS:

brain	ears
<u>head</u>	body
eyes	control
work	human
interconnects	nose

PHRASES:

wonderful parts	eyes, ears, and nose
human body	<u>terrible thing</u>

VALUES:

brain is wonderful part
healthy brain
healthy body
well kept mind

FACTS:

brain controls other parts
eyes, ears, & nose are body parts
brain is physical
mind is now physical
brain develops from ectodermic tissue

PRINCIPLES:

If the brain fails the body fails

EXAMPLE CONNECTORS

"The brain, which develops from ectodermic tissue, is one of the most wonderful parts of the human body. From the head, it interconnects with and controls many other body parts such as the eyes, ears, and nose. If the brain fails, the body fails. While the dependency of the physical brain upon the non-physical mind is not clearly understood, we do know that 'A mind is a terrible thing to waste.'"

ISSUES:

- Are the brain and mind the same thing?
- What is the nature of connection between the brain and the body?

IMPLICATIONS:

The mind and brain operate and therefore are likewise nurtured differently.

ASSUMPTIONS:

- The brain is the channel for the mind.
- The brain is a physical entity but apparently not so with the mind.
- If the mind fails, brain functioning is negatively impacted.

INTEGRATION PROCESS

STEP 1 – Identify Semantic Connectors (explicitly or implicitly stated)

Identify academic content of potential connection to biblical content using the following semantic categories.

- a. Words -- e.g., “head” (Exp)
- b. Phrases –e.g., “A mind is a terrible thing to waste” (Exp)
- c. Values –e.g., “wonderful” (Exp)
- d. Facts—e.g., “brain develops from ectodermic tissue.” (Exp)
- e. Principles –e.g., “If the brain fails [then] the body fails” (Exp)
- f. Issues –e.g., “Is there a difference between the brain and the mind?” (Imp)
- g. Assumptions –e.g., “The brain is the channel or vehicle through which the mind manifests itself.” (Imp)
- h. Implications –e.g., “The mind is nurtured differently than the brain.” (Imp)

STEP 2 –Link Connectors to the Bible

Link academic connectors to biblical content using resource helps.

- a. concordances
- b. dictionaries
- c. encyclopedias
- d. etc.

INTEGRATION PROCESS

STEP 3 – Select Relevant Connections

Select biblical content that connects to the academic content

direct application-Bible enhancing academic content

(e.g., teaching that the body is fearfully and wonderfully created by God—Gen. 2:7; Ps. 139:14).

indirect application- Academics enhancing biblical content

(e.g., teaching that Christ is the head of the church just as brain is to natural body—Col. 1:18).

STEP 4 – Integrate Connections

Integrate and enrich academic content with relevant biblical content

Notes:

- a. The model can be used at micro (lesson) or macro (course) level
- b. The more biblical understanding the richer the biblical integration
- c. The high level of biblical accuracy expected when using the Model is highly dependent on excellent Bible study and hermeneutical skills
- d. The Model is for skill development in teachers for skill impartation to students

EXAMPLE
THE BRAIN
SEMANTIC CONNECTIONS
BIBLICAL INTEGRATION MODEL

Example Academic Content

(Adapted from Exploring God's World, 3rd ed. 1996, A Beka Books, p. 4)

"The brain, which develops from ectodermic tissue, is one of the most wonderful parts of the human body. From the head, it interconnects with and controls many other body parts such as the eyes, ears, and nose. If the brain fails, the body fails. While the dependency of the physical brain upon the non-physical mind is not clearly understood, we do know that 'A mind is a terrible thing to waste.'"

Academic Content	Resource Link	Connect to Bible	INTEGRATE into Academic Content Lesson Plan
WORD: “Head”	1. Concordance KJV: “Head” Gen. 3:15 #7218 head, chief; Eph. 1:22, #2776, head	Christ is the Head of the Church – Eph. 1:22-23	Direct – N/A Indirect – Explain that as the head directs the physical body so does Christ direct the Church which is His body (A)
PHRASE: “A mind is a terrible thing to waste”	1. Concordance KJV: “Mind” 1 Pet. 1:13 - #1271, thought	Gird up your mind...for holiness living – 1 Pet. 1:13	Indirect – Instruct that a mind is truly wasted if not surrendered to God (B)
VALUE: “Wonderful”	1. Concordance KJV: “Wonderfully” Ps. 139:14 - #6395, marvelous	We are fearfully and wonderfully made – Ps. 139:14	Direct – God created our brains, etc. as good and wonderful (C)
FACT: “brain develops from ectodermic tissue”	1. Memory: created in God’s image and likeness; Gen 1:26, 27	God must have physical body as suggested in Ex 33:23 “see my back”	Indirect – God Himself must have a physical body!
PRINCIPLE: “If the brain fails [then] the body fails”	1. Memory: insane, crazy, <u>mad</u> Concordance KJV: 1 Sam.21:13, #7696, foolish	David feigned insanity as evidenced in his drooling, etc. behavior – 1 Sam. 21:13	Direct – The state of the body is directly related to the state of the brain (D)

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Academic Content	Resource Link	Connect to Bible	INTEGRATE into Academic Content Lesson Plan
<p>ISSUE: Is there a difference between the brain and the mind?</p>	<p>1. Memory of thought – brain made of dirt; mind spiritually inspired 2. Concordance KJV: Gen. 2:7 – <u>dust</u>, #6083, earth Gen. 2:7 – breathed into <u>life</u>, #2416, life</p>	<p>Mind is a spiritual entity; the brain is a material entity</p>	<p>Direct – The mind and the brain are not foundationally the same. (E)</p>
<p>ASSUMPTION: The brain is the channel or vehicle through which the mind manifests itself</p>	<p>1. Memory of Bible verses mind 1 Chron. 22:7 – #3824 heart; Rom. 14:5 – #3563, intellect</p>	<p>The physical body including the brain is the channel of man’s spirit which includes the mind; as is created by God – Gen. 2:7</p>	<p>Direct – The mind and the brain are likely co-dependent. (F)</p>
<p>IMPLICATION: The mind is nurtured differently than the brain</p>	<p>1. Memory: physical bread, Matt 15:33 #740, --spiritual bread, Matt 4:4 #4487</p>	<p>Man does not live on bread alone but on every word of God – Matt. 4:4</p>	<p>Indirect – Nourish your brain and even entire body by reading and obeying God’s word (G)</p>

INTEGRATED TEXT

“The brain, which develops from ectodermic tissue, is one of the most wonderful parts of the human body (C--God created our brains, etc. as good and wonderful). From the head, it interconnects with and controls many other body parts such as the eyes, ears, and nose (A--As the head directs the physical body so does Christ direct the Church which is His body). If the brain fails, the body fails (D--The state of the body is directly related to the state of the brain). While the dependency of the physical brain upon the non-physical mind is not clearly understood, we do know that ‘A mind is a terrible thing to waste.’(E--The mind and the brain are not foundationally the same. F--The mind and the brain are likely co-dependent. B--A mind is truly wasted if not surrendered to God. G--Nourish your brain and even entire body by reading and obeying God’s word).

POST-ASSESSMENT TEXT MATERIAL

Evaluating the Great Society

President Johnson's dream to create the Great Society was a failure. Yes, individual programs did alleviate some effects of poverty. However, Johnson's goal to make America into a utopian society remains an unrealized dream. Liberal critics claimed that the president did not do enough; they said that he should have spent much more on his antipoverty programs. Conservatives claimed that it failed because government legislation and regulations are not sufficient to solve the nation's problems. Ultimately the individual is responsible for helping himself. Christians, of course, recognize that the root of society's problems is sin; only when this root problem is dealt with can society's problems as a whole be approached.

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**INTEGRATION POST-ASSESSMENT
TOPIC: GREAT SOCIETY**

Trigger	Integration Possibilities/Ideas

