

**RADIO SPOT #9:
RELIGIOUS THEMES IN STUDENT BOOK REPORTS**

This is Attorney Timothy Denney for Christians and the Law.

Pretend for a moment you are a fifth grade student in a public school. Your teacher tells you to prepare a book report on your favorite book. Your favorite book happens to be the Bible and your favorite story is about David and Goliath. You submit your book report on that topic but the teacher rejects it, saying you can't write about a Bible story.

This is a fictional story, but would a real life teacher need to do this to comply with the law? The answer is no and if a teacher did this they would probably violate their own school policy. Many Michigan schools have policies that authorize students to write and analyze literature on religious subjects. Teachers do not need to force students to abandon religious themes in their student assignments. The courts have restricted the ability of schools to promote particular religious beliefs, but schools have broad discretion to allow students to express themselves on religious topics in student assignments.

If you have comments or questions, please call me, Timothy Denney, toll-free at (877) 256-1758.