



## Adventist Philosophy of English

The purpose of developing language skills is to provide a vehicle for communication. Effective communication, which enhances one's relationship to God and others, is essential to Christian growth. It allows an individual to lead others spiritually and to function successfully in society.

Critical thinking is essential to the development of Christian values. Therefore, it is the goal of English instruction to develop proficiency in writing, listening, speaking, reading and viewing, which in turn promotes and enhances spiritual growth. Students can become effective communicators confidently using language to express themselves, to acquire new information and insights, and to work effectively with others.



"Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for His children. Godliness — god-likeness is the goal to be reached" (Ed 18). One of the godlike characteristics is "individuality, the power to think and to do" (Ed 17). Development and use of this power must be controlled by a Spirit-filled "will" — educated through diligent study. Our Saviour, through His life, demonstrated the meaning of the ideal development. His communications (messages) live on and

on with eternal qualities.

Let all students develop their personal talents and abilities to increase their effectiveness in their witness for the Lord.

## Adventist Rationale for English

The Adventist Christian is challenged to be an active participant in the mission of the church. To be effective in witnessing to one's faith it is essential that one has those language skills which are basic, not only to acquiring a knowledge of the plan of salvation, but the ability to extend that knowledge through the use of higher thought processes.

The ability to read is fundamental to all other studies and is an essential element of the total instructional program. The appreciation of good literature and discriminating factors to choose good reading materials is dominant in a Christ-centered education. Recognition, must always be made, of individual differences of students and the need for each to extend and expand already acquired reading skills. The ability to read, to comprehend and to reason is essential. These are skills for spiritual as well as intellectual growth.

Writing is a much needed skill in every part of our civilization. Among other things we need to write for communication of ideas, for reporting of events and theories, for aesthetics to enrich our lives, and for inspiration to the soul. Students need to develop a personal style of writing and the ability to adapt different forms of text to suit different purposes and audiences. They need control over spelling and punctuation and selection of appropriate words from a wide vocabulary. Proficient writing skills may be developed gradually and steadily according to abilities, tastes and interests until the student can derive satisfaction from his writing and others can acquire a better understanding of him and his viewpoint.

Mastery of the reading and writing processes increases the probability of academic success, enhances development of one's talents and abilities, expands opportunities for choice of a life work and productive, rewarding life, and assists the individual to be an effective witness for, and of service to God and man.