

CONNECT WITH CCCC
ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Students' Right to Their Own Language (with bibliography)

This statement provides the resolution on language, affirming students' right to "their own patterns and varieties of language — the dialects of their nurture or whatever dialects in which they find their own identity and style" that was first adopted in 1974. The statement also includes as explanation of research on dialects and usage that supports the resolution, and a bibliography that gives sources of some of the ideas presented in the background statement; besides offering those interested in the subject of language some suggested references for further reading. The publication of this controversial statement climaxed two years of work, by dedicated members of CCCC, toward a position statement on a major problem confronting teachers of composition and communication: how to respond to the variety in their students' dialects.

Read the full statement, [*Students' Right to Their Own Language*](#) (April 1974, reaffirmed November 2003, annotated bibliography added August 2006, reaffirmed November 2014)

Copyright © 1998 - 2025 National Council of Teachers of English. All rights reserved in all media.

1111 W. Kenyon Road, Urbana, Illinois 61801-1096 Phone: 217-328-3870 or 877-369-6283

Looking for information? Browse our [FAQs](http://www.ncte.org/faq) [http://www.ncte.org/faq], tour our [sitemap](http://www.ncte.org/sitemap) [http://www.ncte.org/sitemap] and [store sitemap](https://secure.ncte.org/store/sitemap) [https://secure.ncte.org/store/sitemap], or [contact NCTE](http://www.ncte.org/contact) [http://www.ncte.org/contact]

Read our [Privacy Policy](http://www.ncte.org/privacy) [http://www.ncte.org/privacy], [Statement and Links Policy](http://www.ncte.org/links) [http://www.ncte.org/links]. Use of this site signifies your agreement to the [Terms of Use](http://www.ncte.org/terms) [http://www.ncte.org/terms]