

Issue | Condensed Article Guidelines  
*Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*

This article will be the go-to source on this issue, and so should meet the high standard that all ESDA articles will achieve: thoroughly researched, primary-source based, information-rich, clearly written, accurate, honest, comprehensive, engaging, authoritative, and written for both Adventists and the wider public. The steps in this guide will help you to write such an article.

### **Title**

Begin your article with the title and your name (as you want it to appear) on the line below it.

### **Organization**

The issue articles will be among the most sensitive and controversial category of articles in the *Encyclopedia*. Make an effort to be tactful, presenting things in a considerate and inoffensive manner, yet being true to the historical evidence. If mentioning certain names or episodes is unneeded and may cause harm or negative repercussions, do not do it. Bear in mind that these articles will in some way reflect the world church, and will be read by the wider public, so write appropriately for so broad an audience. Each issue article will be anonymously peer-reviewed by at least three people. Because each of the types of issue article will differ in major ways, the outline below is only a general one.

When citing dates please include day, month and year. Endnotes adhering to the Turabian style should be used (See Documentation Manual here: <https://www.adventistarchives.org/author-materials>).

- I. Overview of the issue
- II. Origins of Adventist involvement/response
- III. Direct Adventist involvement/response
- IV. Lessons

#### *I. Overview of the issue*

This first section will provide an overview of the issue, and should be written for those who have little familiarity with the subject. Please note again that this is not an article about the issue itself, but the Adventist involvement or engagement with the issue. This overview will only provide as much detail needed about the issue to understand the context of Adventist involvement. For instance, if the subject is “HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa and Seventh-day Adventists,” a word should be said about the history of HIV/AIDS in the region, with salient statistics, and the local, national, and international response to it. There could be a mention here of the responses of other Protestant denominations, as well. An article on Adventists and a certain offshoot group should provide a summary of the group’s history, beliefs and disposition toward the church.

#### *II. Origins of Adventist involvement/response*

Every action or stance that the church has taken is rooted in the church’s past. You should uncover this past in an insightful manner. For “Cosmetics and Seventh-day Adventists” for instance, explore the cultural milieu of the United States during the Victorian era, and how that period’s views on modesty and womanhood influenced early Adventists’ stance on makeup. This section is on origins, but will in many instances touch on the actual subject, so share the church’s earliest discussions and statements about it. Bear in mind that often church statements will precede church action.

“Islam and Seventh-day Adventists” would perhaps go as far back as Millerite beliefs on the Ottoman Empire in prophecy, and then to statements on “Mohemmedanism” in the *Adventist Review* from the 1850s onward. The article on “The European Union and Seventh-day Adventists” may explore the nationalistic tendencies of early church leaders and members in Europe, and more broadly, European Adventists’ stance in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century on the church and secular politics, and the notion of a one world government in eschatology. A theological component (as origin) will have to be brought out in many of the issue articles, as, for instance, with the

European Union, many Adventists saw the EU in terms of the image of Daniel 2. Other explorations of origins will go back as far as the church's founding and before. For instance, "Military Service and Seventh-day Adventists" would have to include an overview of the Adventist response to the American Civil War.

### *III. Direct Adventist involvement/response*

How did the church as a whole, or the church in a region, deal with the issue? Explore the following questions: What discussions were had by church leaders and members about the issue? Did the church say anything at all about it? Did the church make an official statement? If it did, what was the discussion surrounding the statement, and why was the statement made? What were the actions of the church in regard to the issue? Why did they do it? What was the result? Did the church's position or actions change, or were there attempts to change them? What were some of the responses of individual church members? Was there a diversity of opinion and action among church entities or members? How did the wider society react or engage with the Adventist response?

If you're treating on "National Politics and Seventh-day Adventists" in a particular country, talk about the discussions the union or conference in the territory had about political developments, the actions taken on political issues, and the entities' influence in the political realm. Be sure to directly quote official church actions, or what denominational publications or leaders declared on the issues. Highlight individual members who engaged in politics, and how the church reacted to their engagement. The global article on "Gay Marriage and Seventh-day Adventists" should look at the church's discussions and statements on gay marriage, considering variations in different countries and regions, and prominent Adventist activists who have been outspoken on the issue. As may be the case with the aforementioned article, if there is not total Adventist agreement on an issue, like with "Bible Versions and Seventh-day Adventists," share the diversity of views in a nonjudgmental manner. Why do some Adventists hold that the King James Version is the only translation that should be used? Why do others hold that it is best that a variety of translations be used?

Finally, in this section, you should try to pinpoint Adventism's unique contribution to the issue. For instance, an article on "Health and Seventh-day Adventists" could say much on the church's contribution to the practice of a healthy lifestyle, from Ellen White's first health reform vision and the Battle Creek Sanitarium, to the present massive global health system operated by Adventists. On "Politics and Seventh-day Adventists," Adventists in certain regions have been mayors of large cities, or heads of state of governments, influencing policy and the lives of citizens immensely, if sometimes indirectly. On "Bible Translations and Seventh-day Adventists" some Adventist missionaries were the first to translate the Bible into a certain language or dialect. For "Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Seventh-day Adventists" some Adventist missionaries and nationals in Central and South America were outspoken voices in the rights of Native Americans. Emphasize Adventist contributions that were original and/or unique.

### *IV. Lessons*

In this concluding section, share the lessons that can be learned from the Adventist response to the issue. Be as constructive as possible here, as the natural tendency is to be critical and censorious. What did the church do good in the past? What did it not do so well? Explain each of these points, with an eye to lessons for the future. What could the church do better in the future? Where relevant, what is the church now doing in this regard that is a positive way forward? Finally, how does and can this issue fit in with the great mission of the church?

### **Sources**

The sources section (like a bibliography or works cited page) should list all of the sources used to write the article, and others that may be helpful to the reader. Use the Turabian format (See Documentation Manual here: <https://www.adventistarchives.org/author-materials>).

## **Additional Helps**

The materials for ESDA authors can be found here: <https://goo.gl/YklFzg>

## **Submission**

Each individual who writes an article for the *Encyclopedia* will have an Author Page on the ESDA website. This page will include a brief biography and links to all of the ESDA articles that the author wrote. Please submit in a *separate* Word document from the main article a bio of yourself no longer than three sentences. This can include any information you like, but usually covers things like birthplace, education, career, accomplishments, publications, hobbies, and family. Please send this bio to your assistant editor.

You are now ready to submit your article. There are two ways in which this can be done. First, if you have completed your article before the due date, email your editor notifying him that you are ready to submit the article. The editor will then send you a link that you will click and follow the instructions to upload the article. Second, around the time of the due date an email will arrive from your editor with the link and submission instructions. After you have uploaded the article you will receive an email confirmation that it has been received, and then you will wait for the editor to contact you further.