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# “Losing Yourself ” in Academic Service™ Volume 1

Creating a Word  
Creating a Sentence  
Creating a Paragraph



Published by  
Textbook Publishers

“Losing Yourself” in Academic Service™  
Volume 1

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Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to *“Losing Yourself” in Academic Service™ -- Volume 1.*

The PURPOSE of this guidebook is to assist you in developing a great love for service to others.

The talent of service is called an INTRINSIC VALUE. You will remember from the Bible the promise for those who develop this talent to love serving others. It is a promise of great blessings to both those who serve, and those who are served. (See Matthew 10:39 and Galatians 5:13-14)

Learning the INTRINSIC VALUE OF SERVICE will be a very fulfilling experience as you think of ways to lift and help other people through your own reading , writing and other communication skills. As you “lose yourself” in seeking the happiness of others, your personal rewards will be monumental.

Using the Bible and other sources of inspiration, you will enjoy practicing your skills of COMMUNICATION in all its forms – reading, writing, music, poetry, and even other languages. The beauty of our English language as it is used in the sacred writings will enhance your ability to help others in very special ways, because they are words of love and truth.

To assist you in writing and creating your own language arts book, and to help you gain the skills to most effectively serve others, we have divided this guidebook into THREE sections:

1. Creating a Word

This section presents ideas on how to use words to fully express your important and personal thoughts. In addition, you will learn which words need to be capitalized, word abbreviations (aside from texting!), writing plural words correctly, and some Latin and Greek meanings of word roots. You will also learn the importance of applying particular words used in worship.

2. Creating a Sentence

You will learn in this section that words form families when they are put into a sentence to express the feelings of the heart. When properly used, words

work together in the unit of a sentence so that they have meaning, feeling, and make sense.

You will learn how to effectively use what is called “parts of speech” -- especially nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, and conjunctions. The placing of these parts of speech into sentences will become important as you learn how to put words into *action*.

### 3. Creating a Paragraph

Paragraphs combine sentences that have meaningful thoughts that relate to each other. Paragraphs magnify, clarify, and emphasize the message. Since you will have already learned the value of words and how to form them into sentences properly, you will now learn how to combine several sentences into a proper paragraph.

Some paragraphs are well-known, like verses of scripture, poems put to melodies in music, and powerful speeches and documents like the Gettysburg Address and the Declaration of Independence. Students and parents alike will be invited to memorize and recite some of these examples of expression so that they will learn the depths of the valuable art of communication.

To accomplish all of these academic goals, each of these sections include approximately ten main PRINCIPLES of effective communication. Each principle has a page included in this guidebook for you to record your experiences as you accomplish each of the service projects.

You also will notice that every principle has:

- An EXPLANATION of the principle
- An EXAMPLE of how to use that principle
- Three or more LEARNING EXERCISES for applying the principle

At the end of each section is a "Review to Check Your Knowledge." This is a simple evaluation to determine if you have learned the academic principles of the section.

By doing your very best, you will be able to progress in your understanding of the principles and at your own speed of learning. In addition, as you complete the

service projects, you will learn faster by using *CURSIVE WRITING* to develop good handwriting. This actually increases learning by over 200%.

This volume is designed to provide enough learning exercises so that one principle per WEEK can be learned and mastered. There is enough material for a full school year of academic studies and service.

Remember, the most important value of this guide book is learning to *SERVE OTHERS*. We have provided a suggested list to give you ideas, but projects for academic service are almost endless. The internet, as you know, makes communication with others not only very important, but a wonderful way to reach out to others in a positive way.

When you have completed and performed the academic service projects for the 30 principles in this guide book, you can move on to VOLUME 2 of this series.

As students or as parents, you will feel great FULFILLMENT as you apply this guide book to your life by *“Losing Yourself” in Academic Service*.

So let's get started!

# Ideas for Academic Service Projects

Many students are very good at helping and serving others by doing assigned service projects. These may include shoveling snow, raking leaves, or mowing lawns for neighbors, etc. However, many times students who are not used to doing academic service projects using language arts skills have a difficult time coming up with ideas for serving others. The list below may give you some ideas.

As you perform these academic service projects, you will be practicing:

- ✓ Your best cursive handwriting
  - ✓ Accurate spelling
  - ✓ Good grammar
  - ✓ Increased vocabulary
  - ✓ Proper presentations of your message
  - ✓ Neatness
  - ✓ Your own creativity (artwork, poetry, music, designing, etc.)



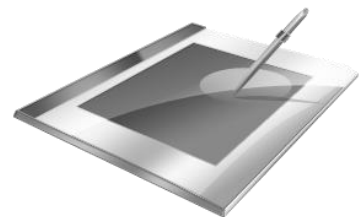
1. Write thank you notes to various service organizations, such as fire stations, police stations, water treatment services, power companies, and other people who keep our cities running smoothly. (How about the garbage truck drivers?)
2. Write a letter to missionaries in a foreign country.
3. Set up a pen-pal with someone and write weekly letters to each other.
4. Write a letter to a relative.
5. Write a letter to a foreign exchange student.
6. Make up a game to do with your entire family -- be creative!
7. Write your favorite scripture and frame it. Hang it in your room.
8. Write a story and read it to a child. Then give it to him or her.
9. Write a story and make a video or audio recording of it.
10. Choose your favorite subject and create a poem about it for your journal.
11. Gather a collection of your favorite poems, then rewrite them into a booklet. (Choose a few and illustrate them, and create fancy borders around the pages.)
12. Make a book of your original poems and decorate the pages.

13. Write a thank-you note to a teacher, expressing your feelings.
14. Write a thank-you note to a brother or sister. Be specific in your feelings.
15. Create an original rhyming poem and write a song for it.
16. Write your feelings about God and frame it.
17. Write a thank-you note to someone in your neighborhood; include a favorite quote.
18. Write down your favorite scripture, explain why it is special to you, and give it to someone.
19. Make up a lesson about something spiritual or patriotic that you feel strongly about. Present it to your family. (Make up a game to go with it.)
20. Explain how to do something, with detailed instructions, and give it to someone you feel it may help. (Or make a game of this activity to see how well you wrote the instructions.)
21. Create your own personal mission statement and frame it.
22. Write in your journal every day for at least a month.
23. Write down character traits that you have. . List which character traits you feel originated from each of your parents. Give one copy to your Dad, and one copy to your Mom.
24. Write to someone in the Armed Forces. Include an encouraging poem or message of gratitude for their service.
25. Write to a legislator, expressing your feelings about a particular law or regulation; or send it as a thank-you note.
26. Write down all the good things that have come to you in your life. Put this in your journal.
27. Write a children's story, illustrate it, make copies, and give them to hospitals or clinics.
28. Make up a game and give it to a homeless shelter.
29. Write at least 20 short inspirational thoughts. Decorate and arrange them in a small photo-booklet. Make several copies of your booklet and donate them to various shelters. (You can use computer fonts and color them by hand.)
30. Make an audio recording of articles or stories and give it to a Care Center (or center for the blind) where people are not able to read.
31. Learn signing so you can communicate with the deaf.
32. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper, expressing your opinion about a specific subject, or defending your position on a righteous principle.
33. Create a newsletter for your family or class.
34. Write a thank-you note to your various church leaders.



WRITE SOME IDEAS OF YOUR OWN:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_
13. \_\_\_\_\_
14. \_\_\_\_\_
15. \_\_\_\_\_



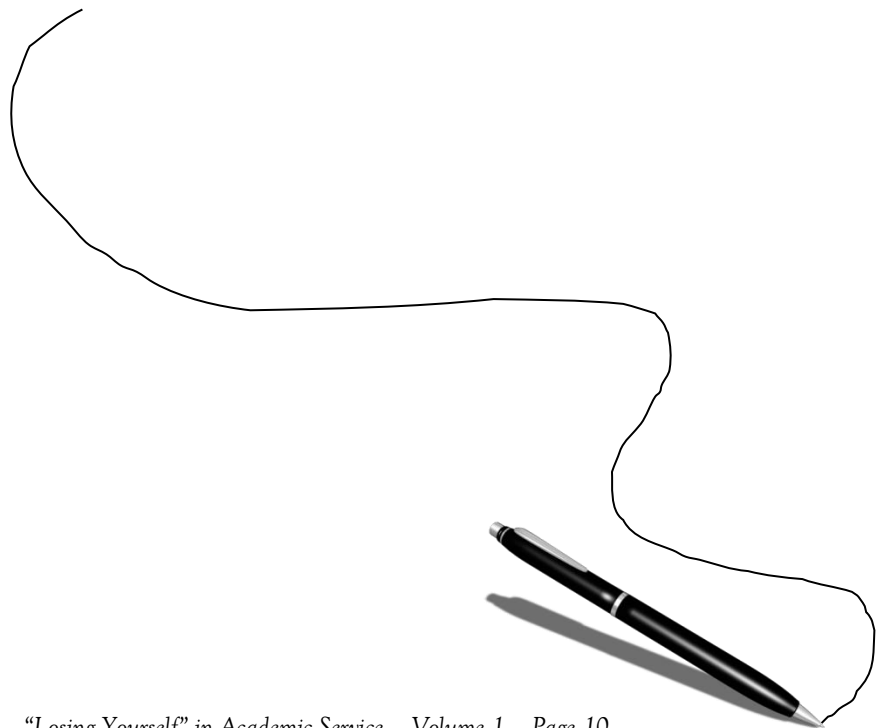
## SECTION 1

# Creating a Word

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IN THIS SECTION, you will learn how to serve others with these principles:

- The importance of positive words
- How to use a dictionary
- How to make words singular or plural
- Word capitalization
- How words can be abbreviated
- Words that use an apostrophe
- Root words
- Words used for worship



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## Principle 1

# A SINGLE WORD CAN EXPRESS A THOUGHT OR IDEA

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READ ME!

### FACTS ABOUT PRINCIPLE 1:

WORDS express some of the most beautiful thoughts and ideas ever written or spoken.

WORDS can also destroy.

WORDS can direct lives for good or evil, no matter what language is spoken.

WORDS express what we think, what we want, and how we feel.

KNOWLEDGE WOULD CEASE if we could not communicate with WORDS.



#### THE GREATEST WORD OF ALL:

“In the beginning was the Word.  
And the Word was with God, and the  
Word was God. The same was in the  
beginning with God. All things were  
made by him; and without him was  
not any thing made that was made.

“In him was life; and the life was the  
light of men.” (John 1:1-4)

WHEN YOU RELY ON THIS  
WORD, YOUR WORDS  
WILL BE TRUE.

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# UNDERSTANDING AND APPLYING PRINCIPLE 1

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## EXAMPLES OF PRINCIPLE 1

Love

Beauty

Light

Good

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## APPLYING PRINCIPLE 1 (A Single Word can Express a Thought or Idea)

*(Do your best work as you complete the following Learning Exercises.)*

THE PERSON(S) FOR WHOM I WILL DO THE SERVICE PROJECT: \_\_\_\_\_

### Learning Exercise 1

- a. Memorize this principle.
- b. As a class or family discuss the above words in the example.
- c. Write or tell what each word means to you. What do you visualize?
- d. Create a word search game on a grid or graph paper, and hide at least 20 words that have special meaning to you. Give your game to a friend to solve (be sure to make a copy of the answers for yourself).

### Learning Exercise 2

- a. Look up Proverbs in your Bible and write at least 20 single words that are especially meaningful or beautiful to you.
- b. Use a dictionary to find additional meanings to the words you have chosen and write these down in your book.

### Learning Exercise 3

Create your own service project, or:

- a. Write a list of at least ten of your favorite words, using your best cursive.
- b. Color each word according to how it makes you feel.
- c. Use these single words to create a small photo booklet. What fancy fonts could you use? How could you decorate the booklet pages? Could you include drawings or photos that fit each word?

Make at least 3 copies to give away as gifts.