

## Adlai's Core Ideas: CONNECT

**Adlai Stevenson knew that people cannot live in isolation, that people across the globe are mutually dependent on one another. He valued CONNECTING with others.**

He believed that Americans should pay attention to the needs of people in our own country as well as those in faraway lands. He dedicated himself to a life of public service in response to those needs.

Stevenson felt that the United States must neither separate itself nor impose its values on the rest of the world. Rather, the U.S. should serve as a model of a just and compassionate nation.

### 4 ways Adlai put this core value into action — CONNECT:

- Be mindful of our neighbors.
- Engage the wider world.
- Don't be an isolationist.
- Serve the public.

### CONNECT: Be mindful of our neighbors.

**Adlai Stevenson believed we have a responsibility to our neighbors — at home and abroad.**

During his life career, Stevenson worked to reduce the gap between the *haves* (the rich) and *have nots* (the poor). As ambassador to the UN, he believed it was the responsibility of richer nations to help poorer ones. Wealthy countries like the U.S. had the responsibility to strengthen the UN in order to promote international peace and prosperity.

### CONNECT: Engage the wider world.

**Adlai Stevenson saw the world as interconnected — that all nations, all people depend on one another.**

One of Stevenson's strengths was his engagement in the wider world. He reached out to people of different cultures. He sought to understand global perspectives.

He also worried about the use and abuse of American power on the world stage. He believed a positive use of that power could make the world a better place.

### CONNECT: Don't be an isolationist.

**Adlai Stevenson argued that the United States could not "go it alone" in the world.**

*Isolationists* opposed U.S. involvement in world affairs. *Internationalists*, on the other hand, thought the U.S. should remain active in international matters.

Throughout his career, Stevenson opposed those who wanted to close off America's involvement the world. The clash between isolationists and internationalists was never more apparent than during the time before America's entry into World War II. After the war's end, technology (such as jet airplanes, satellites, and nuclear weapons) made actual isolation impossible.

### CONNECT: Serve the public.

**Adlai Stevenson felt called to public service. He believed public servants should serve the public interest.**

When it came to public service, Stevenson was both a realist and an optimist. He understood the distrust many Americans had for government. Yet he believed such mistrust made honest, committed public officials even more important. He believed that those who held government offices needed to earn the public's trust, listen to people's needs, and serve with compassion and integrity.

Source: [www.adlaitoday.org](http://www.adlaitoday.org) (**Adlai Today** is a project of the McLean County Museum of History, Bloomington, IL)

*On this shrunken globe, men can no longer live as strangers.*  
— Adlai E. Stevenson II