Readability is important because programmers spend the majority of their time reading, trying to understand, reusing and modifying existing source code, rather than writing new source code..  
However, readability is more than just programming style.  
Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected.  
 The first computer program is generally dated to 1843, when mathematician Ada Lovelace published an algorithm to calculate a sequence of Bernoulli numbers, intended to be carried out by Charles Babbage's Analytical Engine.  
Some languages are more prone to some kinds of faults because their specification does not require compilers to perform as much checking as other languages.  
Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code.  
Programming languages are essential for software development.  
 Allen Downey, in his book How To Think Like A Computer Scientist, writes:  
 Many computer languages provide a mechanism to call functions provided by shared libraries.  
 High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware.  
Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem.  
 The first step in most formal software development processes is requirements analysis, followed by testing to determine value modeling, implementation, and failure elimination (debugging).  
Assembly languages were soon developed that let the programmer specify instruction in a text format (e.g., ADD X, TOTAL), with abbreviations for each operation code and meaningful names for specifying addresses.  
Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process.  
It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones.  
Trade-offs from this ideal involve finding enough programmers who know the language to build a team, the availability of compilers for that language, and the efficiency with which programs written in a given language execute.