Preston Neill

Professor Stuart Dees

ENC 1102-Composition II OW92

19 October 2024

**Title**: The Evolution of Writing Forms

**Research Question(s):** How have writing forms changed over time and what role has technology played in the evolution of these forms? What role does technology play in the use of common writing forms used by individuals today?

**Statement of Significance**

Throughout human history, writing forms have constantly changed and evolved paving the way for the creation of the forms we see and use in our everyday lives. From transferring carved stone tablets, to typing literary works through the typewriter and e-mail, as time has progressed we can see the impact the role of technology has played in the advancement of writing forms. With technology constantly becoming more and more advanced, we see it used so commonly in today's writing forms. As technology continues to adapt and become more evolved, so may the changes and evolution of the writing forms we will use later on in our lives. Knowing how writing forms have changed is important and should be something other researchers should care about. Understanding the advancement of writing forms throughout history, as well as the role technology has played in its evolution, provides insight into modern literature production practices. It demonstrates a more efficient form of producing literary works, and with the consistent technological innovation we may even be able to have a potential outlook into how writing practices may adapt moving forward.

**Review of Literature**

While working on this project, I was able to find and collect secondary research relating to the evolution of writing forms throughout human history. The articles collected primarily focused on two main points, what previous writing forms were like in ancient civilizations and how technology has impacted common writing forms we use today. The articles relating to historical writing forms listed a multitude of writing forms used across different civilizations throughout different time periods. Specific examples from the articles include some of the earliest recorded forms of written alphabets from societies such as Mesopotamia and the native Mayan society, as well as picture-based forms of communication such as Egyptian hieroglyphics. Due to the articles providing examples of ancient writing forms, we are able to identify the changes that writing forms have experienced due to the advancement of technology considering none of the listed forms are used as primary methods for literary work today. The articles describing the ancient writing forms relate very well to the other articles that primarily focused on technology use in today’s writing and education systems. In contrast to previous common writing forms, (carvings, pictures, written literature) today’s primary source of writing form is technology. The use of personal computers and the internet has become the unequivocal dominant source of writing. One interesting potential reason as to why many believe technology has become the dominant style of writing is because the education system is now designed to teach by way of technological writing forms. A few of the secondary research articles express this potential reason as their main topic. For the most part of scholastic history, academics have revolved around pen and paper, or other written styled modes of work. Now throughout essentially every level of academia, education has become primarily technology based. Lesson plans, written documents and research assignments that were once written by means of pen and paper, are now primarily based in computer programs such as typed up documents. All means of writing were once regarded as solely hand-written, now the form has changed to be primarily a technology based typed mode of communication.

**Research Design/Description of Study**

In addition to finding secondary research articles for this proposal, primary research must also be conducted. My plan for collecting primary research includes interviewing my fellow peers (other college students) about the types of writing forms they most commonly use in their lives. My plan is to interview somewhere between five to seven individuals. Each interview will be comprised of a series of around five questions regarding the common types of writing forms they use and how much technology plays a factor in the forms they use. Peers will only be interviewed if they desire to participate in the study and will have the opportunity to remain anonymous to ensure the interview remains ethically confidential if they so choose.

Interview Question Examples:

1). Do you use more than one writing form when attempting to produce written articles or other forms of literary work?

2). Would you say that your primary form of writing source is technology based?

3). Do you believe that commonly used writing forms have changed over the last three decades, if so what would be the primary cause behind the change or preference to alternative forms?

4). If you’re primary writing form is technologically based, what are some of the reasons as to why you prefer this method of writing form as opposed to others?

5). In your opinion would you say that the current education system structure is designed for technology to be the primary source of writing forms, and do you believe it will continue to be the primary source of writing forms in education moving forward?

The data would be analyzed and organized based on the answers of the interviewees. Assuming that the majority of individuals provide similar answers, it would then be relatively simple to provide a somewhat consensus conclusion about how technology has impacted the change in writing forms overtime, and how it has become the primary source of literary work.

**Timeline**

1). Week of October 9th- October 16th - Conduct secondary research: Collect all texts to be used for secondary research by October 16th, read through the texts and find information to be used for the literature review.

2). October 15th-October 16th Begin constructing Primary Research Plan

3). October 17th Submit Primary Research Plan

4). October 18th- Begin process of constructing Major Writing Assignment 2: Research Proposal

5). October 20th - Complete and Submit Major Writing Assignment 2: Research Proposal For approval

6). Week of October 21th- October 28th - Ask fellow peers if they are interested in being interviewed, then conduct said interviews.

7). Submit Peer Review for Major Assignment 2: Research Proposal

7). Week of October 21st-October 28th - Record results of the interviews by writing them down and organize the answers given by the interviewees, answers are to be used as data to be analyzed.

8) Week of November 7th – Begin drafting Scholarly Research Article

9) November 24th – Submit Major Writing Assignment 3: Scholarly Research Article

**Works Cited**

Bezemer, Jeff and Kress, Gunther. “*Writing in Multimodal Texts”*. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/epdf/10.1177/0741088307313177> *Written Communication* Volume 25 Number 2, Thousand Oaks, California, Sage Publications April 2008

Schmandt-Besserat, Denise “*Evolution of Writing*” <https://sites.utexas.edu/dsb/tokens/the-evolution-of-writing/> Published James Wright, *International Encyclopedia of Social and Behavioral Sciences*, Briscoe Center for American History The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas Elsevier, 2014

Trubek, Anne “*Student Writing in the Digital Age”* <https://daily.jstor.org/student-writing-in-the-digital-age/>Published *JSTOR Daily,* October 19th, 2016

Gross, Michael “*The Evolution of Writing”,* [*https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0960982212013760*](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0960982212013760)Published *Current Biology:* Elsevier Science Direct*,* Volume 22 Issue 23 Pages R981-R984,

Amsterdam, Netherlands, 4 December 2012

Kelly, Piers Winters, James and Morin, Oliver *“The Predictable Evolution of Letter Shapes.”* [*https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/10.1086/717779*](https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/10.1086/717779)Published *Current Anthropology,* The University of Chicago Press Journals, Volume 62 Number 6, Chicago, Illinois, December 2021

**Research Genre Production.** Students will be able to produce writing that demonstrates their ability to navigate choices and constraints in a variety of public and/or academic research genres that matter to specific communities.

So far throughout my time in this course, I feel that I’ve been able to successfully produce writing that demonstrates their ability to navigate choices and constraints in a variety of public and/or academic research genres that matter to specific communities. For example, my assignment, Major Writing Assignment 1: Annotated Bibliography asked me to find a research topic that allowed me to navigate choices and constraints for a genre related to research topics about writing.

In my bibliography I researched how writing forms have changed over time. I found a collection of articles that I used as secondary research to later construct the bibliography. The major writing assignment depicted ancient writing forms and how technology has changed writing forms in today’s writing. The bibliography mattered to a specific community (writing communities and fellow ENC 1102 peers).

-Throughout the course of this semester I feel that I’ve been able to draw conclusions based on analysis and interpretation of primary evidence and place that work in conversation with other source materials. For example, while working to Major Writing Assignment 3: Scholarly Research Article, I was asked to gather primary research for my semester long research topic and analyze the data. In order to gather data, I conducted a multitude of interviews with various interview questions regarding the interviewee’s opinions on the evolution of writing forms and how technology plays a factor in their writing today. The data I gathered and analyzed with the primary research interview questions related very well to the secondary research I found throughout different articles. Combining both the primary and secondary research allowed me to draw conclusions supporting my semester research topic proving that technology is the biggest influence on the evolution of writing forms in today’s society.