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Major Writing Assignment 3: Scholarly Research Article

Introduction

Throughout the course of this semester, I have thoroughly researched and studied how writing forms have changed and evolved overtime and what role technology has played in both the evolution of writing forms and what role does it play in the writing forms commonly used today. In order to conduct an investigation into this topic, throughout this semester I collected a multitude of articles to use as secondary research while also conducting a series of interviews. The data results from the interviews were to be used for primary research. When looking at the openings or first couple of pages of secondary research articles, you often find similar methods used seeking to generate interest from their respected audiences. Such methods include potentially attaching images on the front page. For example, when conducting my research many of the secondary research articles I used talked about the evolution of writing forms over time across different human civilizations in different eras. Many of the secondary research articles found would attach images of previously used forms such as cuneiform or hieroglyphics and place them in the openings of the article. The secondary articles would explain how much the previous writing forms (depicted images) have changed and evolved while using images of specific examples to generate interest from readers.

Review

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.

Investigation

When conducting my primary research investigation, I conducted a series of interviews among my fellow peers (other college students) to get their perspective on my research topic. I sat down with a group of five individuals and asked them a series of interview questions. The questions I asked them are listed below.

Interview Questions

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 reason I asked my fellow peers these particular questions was to learn and identify their thoughts and perspectives about how writing forms have changed in their own lives and find out how much of a factor they believe technology plays in their writing forms today. In addition, I was curious to find out whether or not they believed that the current academic system was structured in a manner that would warrant technology use to be the primary writing form they should use. In order to be able to analyze the data after the conclusion of all the interviews, I recorded every individual’s response to each interview question. Once every response was gathered, the responses to each specific question were analyzed and compared to one another. Responses that had similar thoughts or conclusions to specific questions were grouped together and the data was recorded.

In order to understand the data collected from the individuals who were interviewed, you must understand the context in which I investigated my interviewees. All of the individuals who participated in the interview are part of the same community. They all are fellow college peers at UCF. The reason I interviewed fellow peers about the evolution of writing forms was because as college students they use a variety of writing forms in their academic lives every day. They would certainly have their own opinions about the writing forms they commonly use and whether or not they feel the current academic system is structured to favor technology as the primary writing form.

Evidence

In my interview that I used to collect primary research, I conducted one on one sit down interviews with 5 individuals, all of whom are fellow college peers who use commonly used writing forms. I asked each individual a series of 5 questions. While asking these questions and listening to each individual’s responses, I recorded their answers. While conducting the interviews, I learned that while many of my peers use a variety of writing forms, many feel that the current academic system structure warrants the use of technology-based writing forms. In addition, almost all peers agree that technology was the primary source that caused the evolution of writing forms. This quote is directly from one of the peers who was interviewed,

“I do feel technology has played a major role in the evolution of writing forms. With technology being so common in everyday use we now use it to communicate at a much higher level as opposed to old means like pen and paper. I also feel that the school system is structured to cause technology to be the primary writing form students use. All of our assignments are found on campus and most have to be submitted electronically, that causes myself a lot of other students to construct our writing through online sources.” -Peer

This primary data helps inform and support my research and beliefs because one of the core questions I researched revolved around technology’s role in evolving writing forms and the role it plays in writing forms we commonly use today.

Analysis

The data and findings reveal that nearly all members of the community who were interviewed feel that technology is the driving force behind the writing forms they use. By looking closely at a community comprised of college students, I’ve learned that the education system put in place is structurally designed for students to use technology to write their pieces of literary work across nearly all majors and various fields of study. The significance of these particular findings is that they show how much communication and writing have changed in the world since the internet/technology age started. The more and more advanced technology becomes, the more and more it becomes integrated with both our writing and academic learning. These findings from my primary research correspond very well with the research collected from the secondary articles from Major Assignment 2. I think if researchers were to examine the research I’ve gathered, they would agree and say technology has become the primary writing from in today’s society and that it matters because it may be insight into how writing may change in the future. With technology being the primary writing form and also advancing, it becomes logical to assume that as technology adapts so may the technological writing forms we will use in the future. Just as society gravitated away from pen and paper, in a future with more advanced technology we may deviate from the practices we use now to entirely different technology writing forms.

Conclusion

The investigation as a whole teaches us that writing is adaptative. Writing adapts and evolves with the technology of the current time in order to find the most reliable means of transferring communication effectively. The thing that should be taken away from reviewing this article by students and writing study researchers, is that writing forms have undergone dramatic change and evolution across human history. Humans have evolved from trading scribed stones and painted pictures to developing full formed alphabets. Throughout time we see consistent change and development in every writing form across a multitude of civilizations and societies. One of the biggest causes for that change has been the advancement of technology. Technology has made such an impact on the evolution of writing forms, that it has become the primary method of writing form today, and in fact our current academic systems are structured for technology to be the primary form. One new question that has arisen during the course of my investigation is what changes and evolutions may we potentially see in the near future with the further advancement of our technology. One of the questions I did not have time to investigate was at what exact moment in time did schools start integrating the use of technology into academics, and what exact point did it become the primary efficient writing method.

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