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ENC 1102-Composition II OW92

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Topic: How have writing forms changed and evolved over time?

Thesis statement: There have been numerous forms of writing used throughout human history, most of the forms of writing used throughout human civilization have changed and evolved over time.

Annotated Bibliography

1. 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

This article is a journal entry written by multiple authors. This particular article revolves around how education has changed in the 21st century with the advancement of technology. For the most part of scholastic history, academics have revolved around pen and paper, written 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. This source compares with the articles because the article establishes a clearly defined example of how writing forms have changed. All means or writing were once regarded as solely hand-written, now the form has changed to be primarily a technology based typed mode of communication. This article provides informative insight to its researchers into the current dynamics of how 21st century education is practiced with the technology administrators and their students have access to.

1. 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

This article is a journal entry from an online encyclopedia from the library of the University of Texas at Austin. This journal entry revolves around the evolution writing forms have undergone throughout multiple human civilizations across time. Examples included within this article include images of ancient stone tablets that humans would carve messages into and traded amongst one another. Other examples 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. This source relates well to the other articles because it clearly demonstrates how writing forms have changed and evolved over time. Shows the transformation of writing forms from prehistoric carvings to the formation of written alphabets. It provides researchers multiple examples from across different eras and different civilizations and showed how throughout time humans have adapted their writing forms to be more efficient and practical.

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

This article primarily focuses on two main topics. The primary point clearly defines how the advancement of technology has changed the way students write essays and papers throughout the past few decades. According to the article, the advancement in technology has increased the average amount of writing students do for each paper and assignment they “write”. With technological sources such as computers becoming the primary source of student writing, the ability to produce a writing assignment in a shorter amount of time has also increased the length of your average student writing paper. The author explains that in the last four decades, when the primary writing form for education was handwritten on paper, students on average were writing less. This article connects to the other sources used in the annotated bibliography because it clearly demonstrates how writing forms have evolved. It clearly outlines the evolving changes writing forms have undergone to its researchers and provides data to show how the evolution of a writing form has changed the way students are writing in today’s academic world.

1. 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

This article primarily focuses on trying to understand the origins of writing systems and how early forms of writing were different and evolved across different cultures in different societies. Examples highlighted in the article include cuneiform in early civilizations such as Mesopotamia. Cuneiform, an ancient writing form that used carvings or impressions in stone tablets to represent words and symbols, was popular in ancient societies. Obviously in today’s world, there are no advanced societies that use cuneiform or stone carvings the primary mode of written communication. As time progressed, so did the means of technology that allowed writing forms to evolve into what most people know them to be today. This article clearly connects well with the other sources used because it provides a clear explanation of how the writing form changed from the past to the modern-day form. This article would be useful to researchers studying this topic because it not only provides an explanation into how writing evolved, but also provides images of what the form was, compared to what modern day writing forms look like inn today’s society.

1. 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

This article describes the way writing forms evolved but more specifically describes the evolution of written alphabets and individual letters. Much like other articles used, this article explains how early human civilizations used drawings of images to represent letters and words. Societies such as Egypt began first writing their documents in hieroglyphics but as time passed we see societies such as Rome begin to use a letter based written alphabet like the ones we see today all over the world. This article’s primary thesis explains that as the world became more advanced, the gradual change to a letter based written alphabet was almost inevitable. The letter-based alphabet allowed people to conduct more simplified forms of writing as opposed to the initial complexity of the picture based writing forms. Researchers would find this article useful because it goes in depth and provides examples of writing form change across different societies and compares well with other articles used.

Reflective Synthesis

My research goals for this annotated bibliography were to discover how writing forms have changed from the past and how writing forms are changing in the present. When researching my topic of how have writing forms changed and evolved over time, I noticed many of the articles I used revolved around two main points explaining how writing forms have changed and the cause of the change. Three of my articles described the writing forms ancient civilizations used. These forms were primarily based around stone tablet carvings or were picture-based images such as Egyptian hieroglyphics. Over time, as civilization advanced, more and more civilizations turned to written alphabets with letters as the primary writing forms as opposed to drawing images or trading stone carvings. Written alphabets were far more practical and are still the most common writing form used in any advanced society today. My other two articles discuss how writing forms have changed in recent history relative to the advancement of technology. With 21st century technology being so advanced, using technology has replaced had writing as the primary writing form. Throughout all levels of academia, technology has become the primary mode for written education. Students learn from online sources as well as use technological tools to craft their writing at the highest usage rate ever seen. The use of computers to type written documents or even exchange messages to other people has essentially made handwritten writing a relic of the past. One article that sticks out in relation to the change in writing forms due to 21st century technological advancement is Bezemer, Jeff and Kress, Gunther “*Writing in Multimodal Texts”*. This article provided an in depth analysis of how technology and computer typing has become the primary form of writing and mode of teaching for various levels of education. Writing forms throughout human history have constantly evolved, and with even further advancement of technology it is safe to assume that we can expect more changes to current writing forms to come.