

Communication Technology

I began brainstorming and searching for products of nature to complete the invention portion of my writing technology assignment. I could not use any of the modern conveniences of writing. This rule totally eliminated the pen, pencil and even nail polish that crossed my mind. I also had to determine a surface for my text considering everything must be natural but not modern.

I came up with the idea to use a honeydew and charcoal. The Honeydew would become my surface and the charcoal would become my writing instrument. I settled with this idea because I believed it would meet the natural and technology requirements for the assignment. This idea was not successful because the charcoal didn't show up as well as I planned. In fact, it looked more like I was running out of charcoal and appeared very light. I realized I needed a more rugged surface. I chose a cantaloupe instead. I opted for the smallest for mobility purposes. I needed to remain universal and somehow connect the statement to our current readings. I decided to write, "Different colors, one origin, God. Love all."

The text discusses two forms of communicating, oral and written. One side favors oral communication and believes written communication is inferior the other feels oral communication is not as stable as written.

One side feels written communication destroys memory. Walter Ong even compares the objections against writing to the objections urged by computers (Tribble and Trubek 2003: 79-81). Different cultures did not accept the written word and chose to have an oral culture for this reason. "The oral world as such distresses literates because the sound is evanescent", (Tribble and Trubek 2003: 316). This means the spoken word does not have the same stability as the written word because sound can vanish. Whereas the written word can always be referenced. Thomas Watts said, "Writing is the First Step, and Essential in furnishing out the

Man of Business” (Thornton 1996: 6). It is thought of being of a professional manner when you send someone a letter. This shows that you are literate and have ability to write. For example, you would send a memo to a co-worker but not to a relative. As technology grew, the standard letter was no longer written but typed and now people simply send an email. Several schools and writing masters appeared everywhere as different cultures began to accept writing.

Different cultures did not accept the written word and chose to have an oral culture. Some people believe you are unable to retract what you wrote, however, in speech you have an opportunity to clarify and orally express your thoughts. Plato said, “Whereas in writing the tone and understanding is determined by the reader”. Writing is unfortunately like painting; for the creations of the painter have the attitude of life, and yet if you ask them a question they preserve a solemn silence”, (Tribble and Trubek 2003: 364).

In fact Plato’s Socrates complains by saying, “a written text is basically unresponsive“. He also urges writing destroys memory. I do understand their view on this because written text states a meaning to be interpreted by the reader. It also serves as a handicap to people because we write things down so we won’t forget them. What are you to do if you don’t understand something in a reading? Calling the publisher will not give you clarification of the author’s intentions. You are left to make assumptions thus making written text unresponsive. However, in speech the person is directly in front of you for to clarify any misunderstandings. The speaker’s tone also helps with understanding the meaning direction.

The argument that claims writing is not capable of being retractable is understandable. However, a writer has the opportunity to revise several times before an audience reads it. My invention would be a perfect example. The Honeydew melon did not do a good job in serving its purpose in this project. I decided to use the cantaloupe instead. This can be true for writers,

a particular sentence may not work therefore, and they try different things until they are content.

Work Cited

Ong, Walter J. *Orality and Literacy*. New York: Methuen, 1982.

Tribble Evelyn B., Trubek Anne. "Writing Material: Readings from Plato to the Digital Age".
New York: Longman, 2003.