

Abstract

A love-hate letter to writing and the modern technologies and languages we use today. Leapfrog, a 5-year-old Diana's best friend. Modern technology shaped the way that Diana learned to read and write, but will Diana stick to the modern world or will she take a look into the past and play around with old technologies and languages? The amount of experiences and joy that came, and come, from writing and reading. Does Diana express this in the most understanding way? Does she even write this paper correctly? Probably not, but she tried her hardest.

Writing | A Love-Hate Letter to Writing

From the moment that I can write, I knew that that was what I wanted to do with my life. In some shape or form, I knew I was meant to be a writer. The creative freedom, the expressions, the connections that can be made; all of this I felt from writing. But looking back on my life, it didn't start with writing. It started from the stories I would hear. My mom's first language is Spanish, but growing up she taught my sisters and me how to speak English because of how she was bullied, so although her speaking sometimes isn't the clearest English, she still read us English stories growing up, to better our education. "...academic mind more insidiously than the contrast between 'the primitive' ('the savage') and 'the civilized'" (Gee, p. 720) My mother read Amelia Bedelia's books not only to build a bond with my sisters and I, but to also increase my education. She wasn't blessed enough to be able to get an education because of her lack of English, but she was also able to get core memories stored in my mind. I remember the first time I actually could remember her reading it to me, she was laughing and acting out some scenes for my sisters and me. It was so hilarious for a 4-year-old like I was at the time. The amazement that

my mother planted into my head while reading and the absolute curiosity she didn't even realize was being built up in my heart and mind. The curiosity of Can I do that? Can I tell a story in the way that my mom did? At the time, I thought that it was me wondering if I can read the story like my mom. But when I learned to write, I figured out that reading out loud isn't the only way to captivate a person. Writing the story can captivate someone just as much.

I grew up in the early 2000s, the beginning of digital technology that helps teach kids to read and write. I grew up watching stuff like LeapFrog, Pinky Dinky Doo, and Backyardigans. That may sound like two completely different shows, but I was able to pronounce words and learned to tell different stories using my imagination. I have always been someone with a big imagination, even to this day one of my strongest assets is the ability to think and make up different creative objects and stories just based on my imagination. But these television shows were the things that helped build up that imagination before I could ever figure out how to express them in a way that made me feel like me. LeapFrog was my parents' favorite way of teaching me how to pronounce words, how to read, and how to write because LeapFrog didn't stop at just a television show. They also made these electrical books where you would put a regular paper book into a read-a-loud machine that came with a pen that you could also use to read the stories out loud to you. These types of technologies made reading so much easier than it was in the past. It was so much fun to use and a great bonding moment I had with my parents when they would read with me. But I slowly started to see myself gravitate towards the 'old fashion' reading way; "On the one hand, there is the world of the printed word with its emphasis on logic, sequence, history, exposition, objectivity, detachment, and discipline. On the other, there is the world of television with its emphasis on imagery, narrative, presentness, simultaneity, intimacy, immediate gratification, and quick emotional response." (Postman 1992, p. 16)

Postman, in this quote, was the best way I could describe the reasons why I enjoyed reading a book and writing ideas through pen and paper versus typing my notes or having a machine read to me. The 'older' technologies were the way to go for me. My ability to learn in a more historical and disciplined environment is the only way that my brain can truly get the information to stick.

I'm the youngest of three daughters and I have always been considered the 'smart one'. But I won't lie, modern technologies have had their toll on my ability to write. Computers and cell phones are such easy access technology. So let's say someone was to ask me "How do you spell this word?" I can easily look up how to spell the word in question, not because I know how to spell the word by memory, but because I can speak the word into my phone or computer and it spells it out for me. "Continuously updatable media are touted for their ability to incorporate corrections and new information: texts need never become obsolete." (Rath, p. 418) Rath's piece goes into the details of being able to know the importance of hearing history, hearing America. But with modern technologies, we haven't been able to hear it. So if I can't hear it, what makes them think I am going to need to remember? Modern technologies are becoming more and more accessible, we are now at a point where we can just speak an entire essay if we want to. Just click on the speech bubble on google docs or Microsoft Word. Everything is so much easier, but is it better? I slowly started to realize that in high school. As a naive high schooler, I thought 'Wow! I am so grateful to have this technology whereas my family didn't at 18. Makes my life easier.' But when it comes to writing on a worksheet or having to write in front of a class on the board, or even pronouncing the word correctly, I realize my abilities are lacking there. Rath's piece, although isn't necessarily about that, is something that struck me. The technologies we have and the language we use nowadays aren't necessarily the greatest to our enhancements if you will.

Writing to me will always be a great source of freedom, but the more I think about it, are the technologies I'm using nowadays to write and express myself a good use? Social media, for instance, uses its technology to make life easier. Abbreviations are a social media gal's best friend. No one wants to spend extra time writing, 'you're' or even 'your', it's all about 'ur'. What a great step forward, am I right? I can't stand modern technologies sometimes. The technologies of the past, pen or pencil, and paper, can be just as effective as using a computer or a cell phone. Even oral technologies can have a little bit more effect on our educational system. Maybe we can learn to appreciate one another by learning the proper announcements. The moral of the story is if I could go back to learning to write and read all over again, I will. It's a spark that will last forever and ever. And I am forever grateful for the technologies that allow me to enhance my writing in any way possible; good or bad.

Bibliography

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