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Palmer

Composition II

February 21, 2016

Journal Entry #4: Technology and Writing

I really like how technology influences writing; I think it’s… I guess not really freeing, but enabling. I still like planning things out on paper (because I can write anywhere on the page, and also: graph paper is overpowered), but if I’m trying to put my thoughts into words, it’s nice to have it on a computer. It’s like having it on paper, but with the added benefits of (1) me being able to type faster than I can write, (2) the find-replace function, (3) a RIGHT-CLICK THESAURUS THANK YOU GOD, and (4) access from anywhere.

I guess I could (and frequently do, to myself) complain about the lack of personality one can put in a text document as opposed to on paper, like the detached, neutral nature of fonts as opposed to handwriting. But I feel like people on the internet have found a way to express themselves using words (and font colors/size, and gifs/pictures, and inventive use of caps-lock, and acronyms, and all the online linguistic tactics we developed that are specific to one website or community, kind of like a dialect? Example: using “u” in order to communicate informality as opposed to “you”, which is very common on tumblr.com and maybe other places too?) without needing to write them out by hand. That was a really long parenthetical, sorry.

I think technology as far as using writing to communicate with other people (as opposed to just using technology to have a digital copy of your essays) has really streamlined how we talk to other people. I think we really learned how to be concise, because if we aren’t, then fewer people are going to read our writing, because most of them will just scan it in F-style and then walk away. (You probably already know what F-style reading is. Plus I’m over the word count, sorry sorry.)