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Graff, Harvey. "Early Modern Literacies." *Communication in History*. Ed. David Crowley and Ed. Paul Hyer. 6th. Boston, MA: Pearson Education, INC., publishing as Allyn & Bacon, 2011. Print.

Harvey J. Graff discusses the role that the Protestant Reformation held during the later period of the Medieval Era, and discussed two major developments of the Reformation. In "Early Modern Literacies," (1) the contribution of the printing press, not only as a technology but also as a social device, and (2) the use of the vernacular were instrumental in creating economic, political, cultural, and social mass movement. Triggered by Martin Luther's ninety-five theses in 1518, the Reformation allowed for literacy among more than the religious elites. In fact, the printing press was able to create educational reform to the scale of efficiency. A participatory atmosphere was created for those who could not read. Printed materials such as a flier, leaflet, or some other form of standardized print could be read to the illiterate by another participant in the Movement.

Literacy helped to identify gaps and discrepancies between official doctrine and clerical practices. Of course, this phenomenon was also present in the New World. American literacy was high, at 60 percent of the population, relative to the Old World. In order for one to be spiritual in any sense, literacy was a prerequisite.

The overall progression could not have occurred without prior technologies. Paper allowed for a cheaper alternative to parchment, and typefaces could be set or movable. A great deal of this foundation allowed for the prosperity of literacy, and this shows in the aspect that German language was created from the translated version of the Latin Bible.