

Hello, my name is Marla Sanders and this is my task number 3 voice-to-text task. In this task we are to talk for five minutes into a voice to text transcription program and analyze what comes out. I actually used this technology quite frequently when I compose messages to my husband or family, because it is much quicker than typing. It is very weird not being able to edit what comes out, because I know there are a lot of mistakes that are going to happen when I do this project, but it'll be very interesting to see what comes out. I am really enjoying the topics in this course, and in particular this week where we were learning about the history of writing, it really blows my mind the history and the process that happened in order for a written language to be produced. I've always taken written language for granted and never thought too much about the origins where it came from. I'm also very impressed with archaeologists and how they are able to take random objects that they find and determine their meaning and purpose. For example in the handbook at on research on writing that was part of the reading assignments that we had this week, they talk about these tokens that the used thousands of years ago to keep economic records. How do they know what these tokens were used for, and why they were used? I've always known that there were different types of alphabets, because my father spoke several languages and could read Russian which uses a Cyrillic alphabet. Also, to my understanding, some languages like Chinese and Japanese use a pictorial type of language. After reading the chapter from the writing Revolution, perhaps there is more of a fanatic element to Chinese and Japanese characters than I thought. From what I understand it is also very difficult to learn to write Chinese characters properly. Languages have always been very fascinating to me, and when comparing written and spoken language oh, I think about my mother who could speak English very well and could read it slowly, but never could write it and always wanted me to write school notes for her to sign. She was very comfortable in languages like German, but English was a stretch for her. I'm the same way with German, I can understand it and speak it relatively comfortably, but reading it and writing it are very difficult oh, and I have to phonetically sound out the words as I read them to connect them to oral sounds. I also found the concept of oral languages interesting. I know there are several cultures including the First Nations here that have histories that are passed down orally. I've always wondered how reliable those histories are because if something is written down, it is more permanent and concrete whereas an oral story is much more open to personal change, interpretation, and changing from one speaker to the next. My husband and I went on a trip to Alaska on a cruise ship a couple of years ago, and there was quite a lot spoken about with First Nations there and their oral histories. There was some mention about how historians and scientists can correlate the stories of the Aboriginal people to actual major events that happened such as earthquakes, or animal migrations Etc. I agree that history and natural events can be correlated to pass down oral history, but specific details may be lost so how reliable are oral traditions and histories passed down in cultures that have no written language? I think that the five minutes is up now, so I'm going to go back and read what my transcription program produced, hopefully it is somewhat coherent. Thank you for reading / listening to my rambling.