

The Phoenician Alphabet

I. Introductory paragraph

Thesis: The development of the Alphabet by the Mesopotamians, and the people of the Fertile Crescent, had a significant impact in that it gave people a common language to write in, changed our world forever and allowed us to keep records of history, which is how we know about the world. It was invented around 1500's BC, along with shipbuilding, ironmaking, chariots and the wheel, the coin system, and harbors. Although many inventions came with the alphabet, none have had quite the effect as the alphabet has. The alphabet is an invention we use today, even though it was invented almost 3000 years ago. The alphabet gave us jobs, safety manuals, and everything else that uses words. Without the alphabet, this outline, and every other outline, would not be possible. Many people take it for granted, because they don't know anything about it, but they should, because it's arguably the most important invention ever!

II. 1st Body Paragraph

Topic Sentence: The development of the alphabet by the Mesopotamians and the people of the Fertile Crescent began around 1500's BC.

- Discovered by Sir Alan Gardiner (Kollar 1)
- Had different number of letters based on lunar month (Gordon)
- First writing was done at Ugarit (Millard 31)
- Only originally had consonants (Millard 31)
- Some letters now are the same, just shaped differently
- Created for record keeping, mainly debt. (Drucker)

III. 2nd Body Paragraph - First Impact

The alphabet was an insanely important invention that is still used today and has changed our world forever.

- Was one of, if not the most important inventions ever
- World would not be the same without it
- Gave jobs to people
- Changed the way ancient civilizations functioned and kept track of things
- Gave people more customization ideas, which gave more people jobs (Millard 31)

IV. 3rd Body Paragraph - Second impact

The alphabet was formed from a series of other civilizations' writing forms, but was superior because of the versatility and advancements made to it.

- Put together a series of letters, which formed words almost like a puzzle
- Was inspired by Hieroglyphics, but were very different: Hieroglyphics used pictures, alphabet was letters (Millard 31)
- Changed earth in its entirety with the ways we kept records and learned history, now with textbooks and reading off of computers
- Changed in many since it was invented: Added letters, shapes changed, etc. (Gordon)
- Multiple new letters and a different organization (Gordon)
- Used by many, with adaptations to some, like hieroglyphics, cuneiform, etc.

V. Conclusion

The development of the Alphabet by the Mesopotamians, and the people of the Fertile Crescent had a significant impact in that it gave people a common language to write in, changed our world forever and allowed us to keep records of history, which is how we know about the world.

- Changed the world with knowledge and how we see history, because without it we couldn't read anything
- Gave jobs to ancient people, and continued through history, with authors and other writing professions (Koller 8)
- Gave common languages to our world, which we advanced over time
- Gave us a brand new look into our old world, and actually told us what happened, instead of making us guess on what our past was like

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