

I've summed up a few differences but there are more and if you'd really like to get what Ong was talking about check out this link—[Orality](#)—and scroll to the bottom to see some of the differences Ong described.

Early Writing=Talking on Paper

Which one is talking? Which one is writing?

1. In the beginning, when god created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss, while a mighty wind swept over the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.
2. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was formless and empty with darkness on the face of the depths. And God's spirit moved on the water's surface. And God said, "There Shall be light" and light came into existence.

1 is writing. The main difference is that Ong believed that orality was additive and writing had more subordination (had those dependent clauses). Not necessarily about sentence length but what is going on in the sentences.

Written Language is Leaner and Meaner

Speech is full of repetitions. Isn't it? Doncha think? Doncha think writing is full of repetitions?

I mean it's just how people talk. I'm sure you've heard me do it.

Why do you think writing discourages repetitions?

Writing spells it all out for you

Internet? Forget it! I start out—hundred thousand a week, easy. Two years later, thirty thousand dollars' debt, a secretary, us, and two temps. Cyberspace will bring them all together—yeah, right. Early retirement—that was some dream.

People say the way to riches is the Internet? A ridiculous notion! When I started out, my company was making a hundred thousand dollars a week with no trouble. But then just two years later, we were thirty thousand dollars in debt and our staff was reduced...