

Print situates words in space more relentlessly than writing ever did.

Writing moves words  
from the sound world  
to a world of  
visual space,  
but print locks words  
into position in  
this space.

Control of position  
is everything  
in print.  
Printed texts  
look machine-made,  
as they are.

In handwriting,  
control of  
space tends  
to be ornamental,  
ornate, as  
in calligraphy.

Typographic control typically impresses most by its tidiness and invisibility: the lines perfectly regular, all justified on the right side, everything coming out even visually, and without the aid of guidelines or ruled borders that often occur in manuscripts. This is an insistent world of cold, non-human, facts.

Quote adapted from Walter Ong, *Orality and Literacy: The Technologizing of the Word* (London and New York: Methuen, 1982)