

Re-writing Activity

Please Identify the Problem ... and then Fix It

Passage from Original Source

Technology has significantly transformed education at several major turning points in our history. In the broadest sense, the first technology was the primitive modes of communication used by prehistoric people before the development of spoken language. Mime, gestures, grunts, and drawing of figures in the sand with a stick were methods used to communicate -- yes, even to educate.

Student's Use of Source

Frick (1991) argues that the first technology was the primitive mode of communication used by our prehistoric ancestors before the development of formal spoken language. He suggests body language, gestures, sounds and other signs were methods used to communicate and even to educate.

1. What's the problem?

2. How would you rewrite the passage so it's legal?

Passage from Original Source

Technology has significantly transformed education at several major turning points in our history. In the broadest sense, the first technology was the primitive modes of communication used by prehistoric people before the development of spoken language. Mime, gestures, grunts, and drawing of figures in the sand with a stick were methods used to communicate -- yes, even to educate.

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My argument can be summarized as follows: the first real technology known to humankind was the non-verbal forms of communication employed thousands of years ago by our distant ancestors. While they may not have used written words we recognize today, the body language, monosyllabic sounds, and marks scratched on walls constitute what could be considered a form of technology. As one scholar has famously observed, the non-written forms of communication were almost certainly the first technology developed by humanity (Frick, 1991).

1. What's the problem?

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