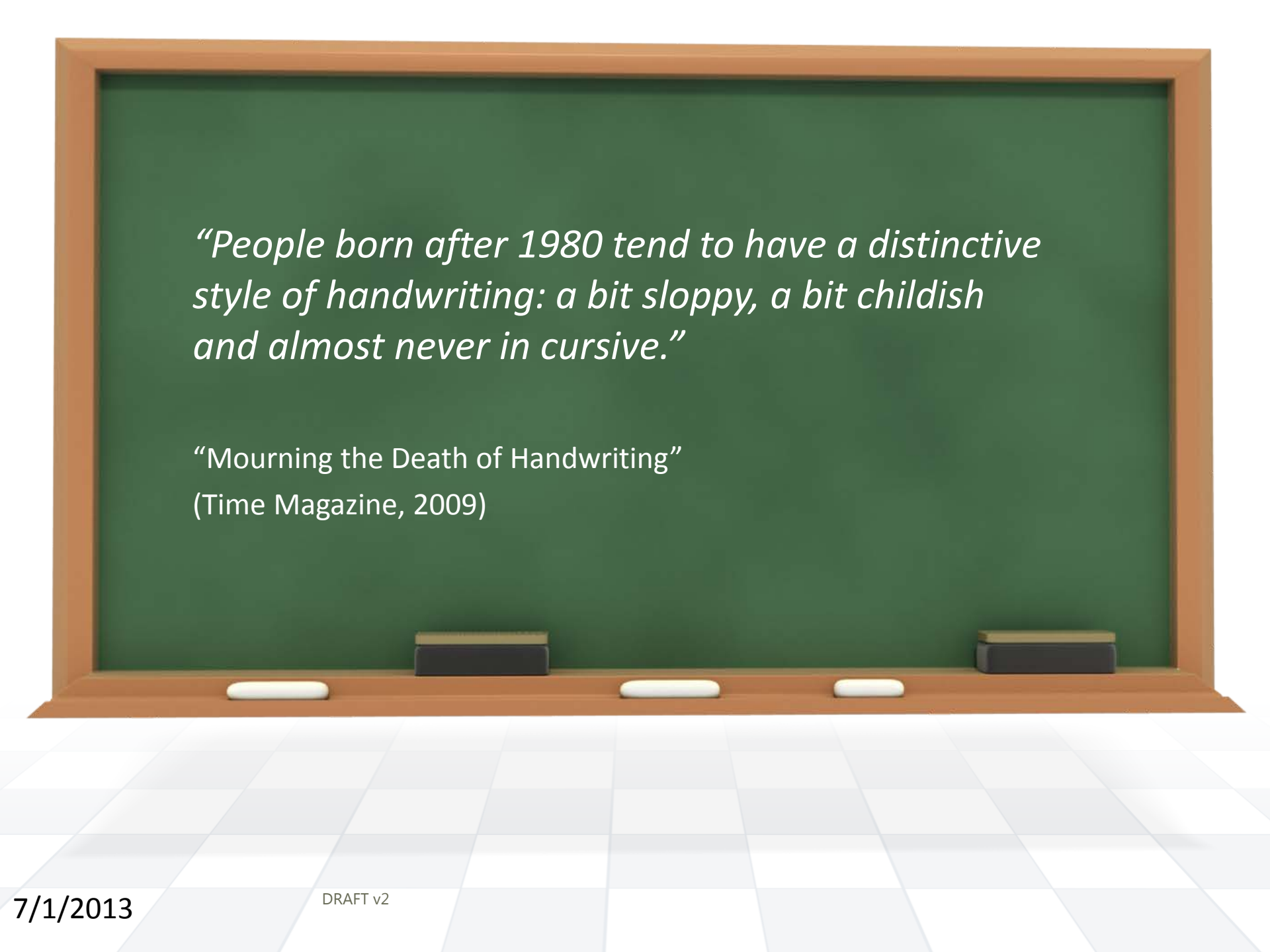


Why teach cursive?

By: Campaign for Cursive
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Kids love to write in cursive





“People born after 1980 tend to have a distinctive style of handwriting: a bit sloppy, a bit childish and almost never in cursive.”

“Mourning the Death of Handwriting”
(Time Magazine, 2009)

History

- The **Dark Ages**: few learned to write.
- The **Middle Ages**: gradual increase in writing to allow children to associate with higher *classes* of people.

(The room for learning is still called: The *Classroom*!)

- **Printing**: in the public education system for less than 100 years.

Trends

- Print media leads parents and teachers to believe cursive is unnecessary.
- Some teachers say they don't have time to teach cursive, but handwriting experts say it takes only 15 minutes a day.
- Many younger teachers are unable to write, read or teach cursive.

What we now know:

Learning to write cursive ...

- **Helps** a child focus, concentrate, calm the emotional part of the brain.
- **Helps** in the physical development of their brain (critical in learning to read).
- **Helps** establish complex brain power that integrates visual and fine motor skills, as well strengthens cognitive and perceptive abilities.

• What we now know:

- **Non-cursive writers** have more difficulty with reading and writing – specifically with retrieving letters from memory, reproducing letters on paper, accurate spelling, and extracting meaning from text.
- **Cursive writers:** Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) shows changes in the brain and creates more **adult like** neural pathways.
- **Multiple areas of the brain** become co-activated during the learning of cursive writing which does not happen with typing or visual practice.

• *What we now know:*

- Cursive handwriting **benefits** children with learning disabilities.
- There were **lower rates** of children with learning disabilities when cursive handwriting was taught.
- Children develop a better sense of personal style and a sense of **personal ownership** when they learn cursive writing.

Prepared for the future

- Private and Home Schooled kids learn cursive.
 - They will be competing with publicly educated kids for future jobs.
- Latin based language countries (60% of the world population) teach their children cursive.
 - We are in a global marketplace. Ohio students will be competing world-wide for jobs in the future.
- Mexico did not teach cursive for over 20 years.
 - In 2002 they reintroduced it and trained their teachers.

The Reality

- We live in a digital world.
- Handwriting works when technology fails.
- It isn't either/or. BOTH handwriting and technology skills need to be mastered.
- Children can learn computer skills at any age, but there is a narrow window of opportunity to learn handwriting.

Bottom Line, Ohio students

- **Deserve** to be educated for a global economy.
- **Need** to be able to **compete** in the future job market (private and homeschoolers learn cursive).
- **Deserve** the same quality education that others have had for the last 200 years.
- **Well educated** Ohio public school students benefit all and demonstrate that Ohio provides a world-class education.

The choice is yours ...
Our kids are depending on you.

Thank you!

Where to go for more valuable
info:



www.campaignforcursive.com