**Mesoamerican Writing Systems**

**Lexigraphy - Writing with Words**
Writing in which the signs are attached to necessary forms of speech. They are (usually) arranged in a linear sequence corresponding to sounds in speech.

**Semasiography - Writing with Signs**
Non-phonetic signs that represent a concept or meaning. *Sematograms* (signs) may be arranged in any conventional way.

**Logography**
The signs (*logogram*) represent words but do not have a phonetic value attached to them. They are semantically meaningful.

**Phonography**
The signs (*phonogram*) have a phonetic element and represent sounds. They are not semantically meaningful on their own.

**Syllabography**
The signs (*syllabograms*) represent syllables.

**Alphabetic Writing**
The signs (*alphabet*) represent elements of speech smaller than syllables.

**Epi-Olmec/Isthmian**
- Zapotec
- Maya

**Mixtec**

**Nahua**

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*Epigraphy*: The study of written remains on such durable materials as stone, metal, or ceramic.

*Orthography*: How things are spelled.

*Transcription*: A redrawing of characters recorded somewhere.

*Transliteration*: A notation of the sounds of a script in Roman characters.

*Writing*: A system of markings on a material substance with a conventional reference that communicates information.