



Society for
Technical
Communication

Society for Technical Communication
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How Technical Writers Add Value to Your Team

What are Technical Writers?

Wikipedia defines Technical Writers as:

... professional writers who design, create, maintain and update many types of technical documentation, online help, user guides, white papers, design specifications, and other documents. Their given field can be almost anything that requires specialized knowledge and information. (See technical writing.) Examples include the mechanical, electrical, or medical fields, but most technical writers work in the computer/information technology area.

A technical writer's primary responsibility is to effectively communicate a technical message. Technical writers are responsible for creating documentation that is accurate and complete, but as concise as possible, and as easy for the intended readership to understand. Some technical writers also communicate in other modes (e.g., writing scripts for industrial film or video).

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technical_writer

Technical writers can add a great deal of value to your products or services because they are trained to:

- Understand the requirements of the information they produce, not only formatting and size requirements and restrictions, but balancing the need to provide adequate useful information against the danger of providing too much information, which can lead to confusion and information overload.
- Understand the needs of the audience or users who will be using the materials they produce and become advocates for those users. By placing themselves in the user's position, technical writers often identify areas that are confusing or just don't work the way a user would expect them to work.
- Arrange the material in such a way as to promote ease of use and fast access to needed information.

- Alert users to the perils of performing a task incorrectly or of failing to perform a required task or safety measure.
- Harmonize technical communication deliverables with your product's or service's branding and messaging.
- Look for ways to perform tasks that are easier and/or more efficient or that increase the margin of safety.

Technical writers are not just writers, although that is certainly a major aspect of their duties. They are also user advocates, researchers, testers and publishers. All tasks that are, in the end, performed to enhance the usability and value of your products or services. In short, technical writers are communications professionals accustomed to working with highly technical information and complex subjects.

Need Technical Writers for Your Project?

Adding technical writers to your team need not be difficult. Writing Assistance, Inc. can get you technical writers that are qualified for your specific project. Technical writers who are:

- Highly trained, experienced experts in your industry
- Valuable team players who are local to your office or skilled at working remotely
- Quick-thinking problem solvers and independent technical communications professionals

In short, we are the experts when it comes to matching qualified contract and permanent technical writers with your needs.