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What are PROFESSIONAL WRITING *and* TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION?

As English majors, students often study the works of many famous authors – striving to understand the world they lived in. These authors write in ink, on paper, published in books, about politics, philosophy, movements and society. But our world is very different than the world those dead authors came from....

We live in a digital world, surrounded by technology. We type on screens and talk about apps, browsers and software. We scan websites not just reading text but listening to podcasts and watching YouTube videos. Professional writing and technical communication is every English major's adaptation to the 21st century – opening up opportunities beyond writing novels and poetry.

{ Professional Writing }

“Professional writing involves the use of clear language to convey information in a way that is easily understood by an intended audience-- emphasizing writing in digital environments”

-Society of Technical Communication

Professional Writing Examples:

- Grant Proposals
- Software Documentation
- Technical Reports
- Journal Articles
- Project Proposals
- Website Authoring
- Reviews
- And much more...

{ Technical Communication }

A means of communication that exhibits the following:

- Addresses technical or **specialized topics**:
- Makes **information** more **useable** and **accessible**
- Provide **instructions** about how to do something,
- Focuses on a **user-centered approach**-providing information, in the right way, at the right time to make someone's life easier and more productive.

-Society of Technical Communication

Modes of Technical Communication:

- Web Pages
- Help Files
- Social Media Sites
- Software Instructions

Jobs within Technical Communication:

- Technical Writers & Editors
- Information Architects
- Instructional Designers
- Technical Illustrators
- Globalization & Localization Specialists
- Usability & Human Factors Professionals
- Visual Designers
- Web Designers & Developers
- Teachers & Researchers of Technical Communication