1-1 Activity: The Importance of Communication in STEM Fields

Elijah B. Dames

Southern New Hampshire University

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David Smith II

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1. Define academic, professional, and technical communication in your own words, using at least two examples.

Academic communication takes into consideration vocabulary, expressions, and verbal and nonverbal presentations alike that are tied to the academic world and are mostly familiar with people who have extensive experience in academics. An example of this would be research papers and academic lectures which are used to instill knowledge in academic

scholars.

Professional communication includes tools and strategies that are utilized to communicate effectively with people in a professional manner. Whether you’re a professional communicating to nonprofessional or a professional communicating to a fellow professional these communication methods are used extensively to create a strong communication link between each other. Examples of professional meetings include emails and meetings as some of the biggest factors in communication between professionals in these spaces it is also important to utilize professional openings and appropriate language when conveying a message to the recipients.

Technical communication is very nuanced, and the language used can be very important when trying to communicate with a specific audience. People who are “Out of the loop” in technical lingo can easily be overwhelmed with advanced terms and expressions that are commonly used in technical circles so the best way to fight this gap in knowledge is to use more neutral terms and simple speak to get through to them. Examples of technical communication tools that this would apply to are user manuals and Business proposals. Business proposals would fit my “out of the loop” audience argument the most in this case because of the difference in areas of expertise between a businessman and a tech professional. Understanding how to bridge the gap in knowledge is especially important in this case because keeping potential stakeholders or investors interested in your proposal without losing their attention because of the aforementioned knowledge gap can be the difference between landing a huge project and missing base entirely.

1. Discuss whether you believe the ability to communicate well is the most important skill for a STEM professional to learn.

I believe it plays a very significant part in being a STEM professional in my personal opinion. Acting as the translator of sorts that can bridge two worlds together to create a higher level of understating is a very powerful weapon to wield and should not be taken lightly. The importance of efficient communication and how it can transform businesses, industries, lives and much more is a hefty responsibility with great rewards. You essentially work as the release valve for how much value you can get by clearing up communication efficiently. Miscommunications and misunderstandings can be the bane of a company’s existence and can ultimately be the reason for a company going under being a STEM professional with excellent communication skills in many areas with a great ability to translate your learnings into digestible strings of information can be vital to a company’s success and can quickly skyrocket your value as a professional.

**REFERENCES**

Handelih, D. (2023, May 2). *The Importance of Communication in STEM Education: Bridging the Gap between Science and Society*. https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/importance-communication-stem-education-bridging-gap-between