

Resources for Technical Writing

Technical writing is used to make technology accessible for everyone and to help users solve technological problems independently. There is a prominent need for technical writers today and technical writing is indeed a rewarding career for those with a flare in writing and technology.

Short Term Courses

If you are a beginner in this field, it would be a good option to take an introductory online course to familiarize yourself with the tools, terminologies, and the overall process of technical writing. Here are some courses that can be taken as a foundation:

- Google Technical Writing Courses
- · Coursera Introduction to Technical Writing
- Udemy Professional Technical Writing: Advance your Writing Skills
- Udemy The Art of API Documentation
- TechWriter Certifications Certificate in Professional Technical Communication
- · Technical Writer HQ Certified Technical Writer
- Coursera Writing in the Sciences

Along with these, you can consider taking some LinkedIn Learning courses as well as they would help build theoretical knowledge about the concepts in technical Writing. Additionally, they would also show up on your profile and amplify your credentials.

Essential Tools in Technical Writing

Most organizations look for candidates with tool proficiency in Publishing, Authoring, Screen Capture, Version control, Image Editing, Video Editing, and Spell check. Below is a list of tools popularly used for technical writing.

Advanced Writing Tools		
Documentation Tools	MadCap Flare, Adobe FrameMaker, RoboHelp, Read the Docs, Confluence	
Authoring Tools	Microsoft Office, Google Docs, Markdown Editor	
Version Control Tools	GitHub	
	Explained with Cats! A Visual Guide to Version Control	
Screen Capture Tools	Snipping Tool, MadCap Capture	

Image Editing Tools	Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator
Video Editing Tools	DaVinci Resolve
Writing tools	Grammarly, Markdown, Canva, Notion, Copyscape, Quillbot, MarkDoc, Hemingway App, Dropbox Paper

Articles

It is important to stay updated with latest trend, best practices, and tool proficiencies. Below is a list of articles that have been gathered around the internet for your reference.

- Microsoft Writing Style Guide
- Documenting APIs: A guide for technical writers and engineers
- Technical Writing for Beginners An A-Z Guide to Tech Blogging Basics
- Open Source for Technical Writers A Guide on how to make Contributions.
- How to Create Technical Documentation with Examples
- Writing Tips for Software Developers How to Become a Better Tech Writer
- · How to create a Technical Writing Portfolio
- · Technical Writer Style Guide Examples
- Technical Writing: a bibliography, tips, and tricks
- Technical Documentation in Software Development: Types, Best Practices, and Tools
- Virtual Reality and Technical Communication
- Getting Started with Technical Writing

Books

Books provide in-depth theoritical knowledge for beginners. Heres a list:)

Book Name	Author	Date
Content Strategy for the Web	Halvorson and Rach	2012
Docs for Developers: An Engineer's Field Guide to Technical Writing	J Bhatti	2021
Technical Writing 101: A Real-World Guide to Planning and Writing Technical Content (3rd Edition)	Alan S. Pringle, Sarah S. O'keefe	2009
On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Nonfiction	William Zinsser	2016
Modern Technical Writing: An Introduction to Software Documentation	Andrew Etter	2016
Punctuation Matters	John Kirkman	2006
The Chicago Manual of Style	The University of Chicago Press Editorial Staff	2017
The Global English Style Guide: Writing Clear, Translatable Documentation for a Global Market	Kohl, John R.	2008

•	Writing Is Designing: Words and the User
	Experience

Michael J, Andy Welfle

2020

Open Source Projects

Have you thought of building your portfolio by contributing to an open source project? It also helps you contribute to a greater good by improving the accessibility of open source documents.

Here are some articles that will help you learn how to document for Open Source Projects:

- Building Great Open Source Documentation
- Open Source for Technical Writers A Guide on how to make Contributions.
- The Technical Writers Guide to Contributing to Open Source Projects
- Getting started with Open Source as a Technical Writer.
- How To Document Your Next Open-source Project

Open Source Projects for Documentation:

- · The Good Docs Project
- Codecademy
- Hacktoberfest
- Mattermost

Where to Find Open Source Projects:

- Good First Issue
- · Up for Grabs
- Make your first open source contribution in 5 minutes

YouTube Videos

- · Dawn Davenport what do you look for in technical writers?
- · How to Become a Great Technical Writer
- DocToHelpTV
- TALL TALKS FROM A SHORT LADY
- What Do Technical Writers Do?
- · William Smith

Where Can You Publish your Articles:

- DevTo
- · Auth0 Blog
- Medium
- Open Source Guides by GitHub
- Wordpress
- Hashnode

Technical Writing Communities

It is highly beneficial to join a community to connect wiht people of a similar background. This can help you expand your knowledge through interactions, discussions, quizes, problem solving and so on. These communities could also hold regular meetups that could help you network wiht professionals in this field.

- LinkedIn Groups for Technical Writing
- Reddit
- Society for Technical Communication
- Writethedocs
- techwriters.dev
- Tech Typers Community

Conclusion

Being a technical writer may seem like no sweat, but presenting some of the most complex information in simple words may not be easy.

However, all it takes is a knack to approach concepts from the perspective of a non technical audience. Thus, it is important to practice with real world examples and projects to enhance the comprehensiveness of your writing.