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Final Learning Reflection on Technical Communication

Technical communication is the use of language, visuals, and other stimuli to convey information in a formal manner, encapsulating a product's user instructions, resumes and cover letters, product releases, and countless other formal writings and displays of data. While seemingly broad, this definition can be generalized as the broadcasting of information in a manner which benefits the reputation of the originating author or entity. This writing will analyze the process of generating a piece of technical communication and the aspects one must consider at each step of creation with this generalization in mind. This will be achieved by explaining my experience learning how to create a piece of technical communication.

Taking a broad look at technical communication, one might be unsure exactly what aspects of the communication make it technical. However, it can easily be defined when you take a look at aspects of any communication, and filter them to achieve the scope of our definition. The three main subdivisions we can make are assessing the audience of the communication, achieving the goal of the communication, and then actually communicating formally the message. When assessing the audience, consider a few main aspects: (1) what the reader hopes to gain by viewing; (2) the viewer's personal characteristics such as their age, experience, preferences, and cultural characteristics (Markel 82-113); (3) how the viewer will use the piece; (4) what platform the viewer will likely use to view the piece. Appropriately assessing the audience and the factors stated above will allow the creator to successfully cater to their

audience, avoid any conflict with the users ethical and moral considerations, and allow information to be smoothly translated at the appropriate scope and level of complexity. In a piece of technical communication, the audience usually is made up of adults and the scientific or higher educated and informed community.

Once the creator has understood the audience and reasoned how they will cater to them, they must consider the goal of their writing. There are a few primary goals one may have for their communication; in summation, every creator should have a goal to “help [their] readers understand a concept, adopt a particular belief, or carry out a task” (Markel 108), that is, to inform, convince, or inspire action. Once the creator chooses their goal, they must use the specifications of their audience to convey their goal.

The final step of conveying the creators information to the audience contains a creative liberty any artist could ask for. There are an unbelievable amount of different ways to convey information such as through infographics, powerpoints, prezi's, essays, project reports, graphs, 3D models, and audio files to name a few, that finding a unique way to grab the viewer's attention and succeed at the chosen goal is quite easy. Once you choose your method[s] of data visualization, you must choose your platform, which relies heavily on the audience you wish to view your piece. For example, if you are publishing a scientific paper on the physics of a hummingbird's wings with the goal of informing people on a cool concept you found, you may choose to publish this in ScienceDirect, Popular Mechanics magazine, or even an online publicist like Wired to gain views. This could also be as simple as choosing formal verbal communication over an informal text message, which would create urgency and better understanding. Once you choose your method of data visualization and the platform of communication, you just have to do

the work and generate the piece under the guidelines you computed. You have now successfully generated a piece of technical communication.

Technical Communication is an important tool for every employed person, and person looking to be employed in the future. It is not specific to the scientific or technology related fields, but is helpful for anyone who ever has to communicate with anyone in a formal manner; unsurprisingly this includes every employed person since every employee has a boss, a subordinate, or customers. After reading this writing, the importance of technical communication should be clear, and the reader should have a solid structure on how to go around generating such a piece of communication. The reader should now have a good idea on what technical communication is, and how to dutifully employ it in their life. While this piece should be informative, it will take much practice for the average reader to master technical communication.

Works Cited

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