

Assignment 1 Final Draft

Revisions of 'A Brief History of Technical Communication'

Introduction

Coherence provides readers with a sense of flow in a writing, and in *A Brief History of Technical Communication*, by Frederick M. O'Hara, Jr., coherence needs improvement. The author needs to revise issues with sentences lacking in cohesion, clarity, formal writing, and punctuation. Please review the following revisions to the article, and the article should be accepted as complete once the suggested revisions are incorporated.

Proposed Revisions

A Brief History of Technical Communication is lacking in cohesion, and many sentences can be reduced to formulate a stronger rhetoric. In paragraph 2, "Astronomical observations were numerous among these scientific records and were preserved in the writings, and artifacts of many cultures, including the Aztecs, Chinese, Egyptians, and Babylonians [1].", is a long sentence, but removing everything after 'observations', and ending exclusive of 'were preserved' is easier to read. In paragraph 18, the sentence ending with "...which as come to be called the transistor [1].", has empty words and should be reduced to 'is called the transistor.' Paragraphs 19, 20, and 21, beginning with "After the war...", "At about the same time...", and "Many of the goods..." respectively are exact copies of paragraphs 16, 17, and 18, and must be removed entirely [1].

Coherence aside, much of the content is not clear in basic sentence structure, and should be revised with the suggestions that follow: In paragraph 3, "In the 14th to 17th centuries, western societies experienced an explosion of inquiry and inventiveness in the fields of medicine, science, religion, mechanical arts, graphic arts, and literature that has since been dubbed the Renaissance [1].", the subject appears at the end of the sentence. The author writes with suspense, but clarity is increased by providing the subject at the beginning of the sentence. In paragraph 6, "In the eighteenth century, a major impact was produced not by technology but by

a major introduction into the social system of science, the beginning of the scientific journal [1].", the subject at the end of the sentence is implied rather than explicitly stated. Adding 'which was' before the subject provides explicit clarity. In paragraph 18, "Many of those goods were electronic...", the use of the pronoun 'those' in the beginning of the paragraph is not clear as to what the author is referring to; explicit stating subjects is more clear than using pronouns [1].

Clarity aside, the quality of formal writing is improved by editing the following sentences: In paragraph 5, "His equipment was sold off...", 'sold off' is informal, and removing the word 'off' is formally complete [1]. In paragraph 7, "Early in the American adventure...", 'American adventure' is ambiguous, and removing this phrase is formal, and explicit [1]. In paragraph 9, "About 1830", is informal while 'in the year 1830' is formal [1].

One instance of improper punctuation exists in paragraph 22, in "Along with those goods, both commercial- and consumer-oriented, came the need for documentation on their use, installation, maintenance., and integration [1].", a period should be removed before a comma, and after maintenance.

Conclusion

Cohesive sentences develop coherent articles, clarity makes points evident, formal writing and punctuation shows confidence, and repeating the same 3 paragraphs shows a lack of professionalism. O'Hara's article needs revisions, and he needs to show more effort in his following reports. Many errors exist other than the ones listed in this letter, but the proposed revisions prove to create a much more complete report.

References

[1] F. M. O'Hara, Jr., "A Brief History of Technical Communication," [Online]. Available: [https://web.archive.org/web/20180403125539/http://www.msubillings.edu/cotfaculty/fullon/_notes/History%20of%20Technical%20Communication%20\(2\).pdf](https://web.archive.org/web/20180403125539/http://www.msubillings.edu/cotfaculty/fullon/_notes/History%20of%20Technical%20Communication%20(2).pdf) [Accessed September 23, 2019].