



## **Technical communication II: Finalizing the communication of a discipline specific project in software engineering**

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## **This morning's ILOs**

- After this workshop the successful student will be able to:
  - Improve the framing and positioning of his/her software engineering project and communicate that framing in effective rhetorical structures
  - Recognize effective sentence structures and verb phrases relative results and claims in technical reporting and also read such with greater critical awareness
  - Provide, receive and (self-)assess peer commentary on technical communication

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# Agenda

13:00

- Seminar introduction, paragraphing / rhetorical patterns, peer consultation
- Sentence structure exercise

13:45

- CARS

14:15 CARS + review time (BREAKS negotiated in groups)

- Review: working with texts; at least 80 minutes

15:40

- Passive voice, nominalization, relative clauses
  - Abstracts / miscellaneous
  - End: Peer review / questions / buffer time
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# Remember paragraphing?

Paragraphs can develop topic sentences in many ways

- Exemplify, specify, concretise, modify, define, describe, answer, object to

Recurring rhetorical patterns

- cause and effect
  - general to specific
  - problem - solution
  - chronology (or step-by-step procedures and instructions)
  - comparison and/or contrast
  - advantages and disadvantages
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# Rhetorical strategies

## Purpose and structure

- Signposts
- Evocative
- Themes, motifs, parallels
- Guide?
- Informed by the communicative situation of the paper (or talk, for that matter...)
- General to specific, Specific to general
- Problem – solution,
- Cause – effect,
- Fault – finding,
- Informed by geography, activity, chronology, groups of people

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# Paragraphing and patterns

## Recurring rhetorical patterns

- Generic to specific
- Cause and effect
- Situation – problem – solution – evaluation
- Problem – method - solution
- Chronology
  - step-by-step procedures
  - instructions
- Classification and or definition
- Geographical
- Comparison and/or contrast
- Advantages and disadvantages
- Dialectic / thematic

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# Situation-Problem-Solution-Evaluation

**Situation:**

Background information on subject, statement that will draw your reader into the text.

**Problem:**

Clear description of the problem. Be as specific as possible.

**Solution:**

Offer the solution you promote. Why have you chosen it?

**Evaluation:**

How far does this solution work? How certain are you that this is the answer? Does your language reflect this?

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# Are you 'talking' to me? (audience analysis)

**Questions well worth answering:**

- What does the audience know and what does it want to know?
- What will the audience do?
- How will the audience use the text/information?
- What prior knowledge does the audience have?
- What does the audience expect of the text/information?
- What is expected of the writer/speaker?
- What is the writer's/speaker's relationship to the audience?
- How motivated is the audience?
- What motivates the audience?
- What will the audience be interested in?
- How long will the audience stay interested?

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