

# Dave Howland

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Dr. Kurt Spellmeyer, Director  
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510 George Street – Murray Hall, Room 108  
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March 3, 2019

Dear Kurt,

After a busy and productive start at Rutgers this past fall, it is my pleasure to apply for a full-time teaching instructor position in the Writing Program. It has been a privilege to work with students and colleagues in the Business & Technical Writing Division, and I would be thrilled to take on either the full-time BTW or general Writing Program teaching position you seek to fill.

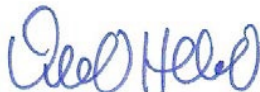
When I applied this past summer for the part-time lecturer post, I told Bill Magrino that I thought your program would be a good match for my skills, experience and teaching philosophy. And sure enough, my Technical Writing Essentials students have proven it so. They engage in lively discussions – for example, about do's and don'ts in workplace communication – and they are producing some outstanding work: from detailed essays about the role of writing in their dream jobs, to cogent instructions for making the perfect breakfast, writing a song, or lifting free weights safely in the gym.

This fall, my students embraced a seven-week service-learning project in which they recruited and developed useful products for a terrific collection of community non-profit organizations including CASA, Youth Empowerment Services, ODASIS, the Rutgers Rugby Club, and Meals on Wheels. Working in teams of three, my students developed and tested a range of products including promotional videos, research reports, a visitor's guide, and collections of informational materials like flyers, posters and brochures. Along the way, they embraced some best practices for group collaboration and experienced the excitement and responsibility of creating real-world products for organizations doing important work. Supportive from the start, Bill and Donald Dow this month introduced me to Amy Michael and Claudio Mir at the Collaborative Center for Community-Based Research and Service. It was terrific to learn about their work, and Amy and Michael generously agreed to help my students and to create a recitation for a future section.

In addition to enthusiasm and new ideas, I have brought to Rutgers the skills I've developed across all of my professional and life experiences – as a reporter and editor, teacher and researcher, politician, songwriter and parent – to help my students develop and communicate their bright ideas and vision with clarity and confidence. I am also versatile, having taught first-year English, advanced and introductory journalism, creative non-fiction, and professional and technical writing (including many English language learners and International students). I have volunteered to fill in for a section this semester of Scientific and Technical Writing, and I am really excited about the prospect of teaching Writing as a Naturalist this Fall. For this and other courses, I will continue to bring fresh ideas and experiences to my students and to stress the role of writing as an essential, lifelong skill – whether for workplace success (as for the Rutgers School of Social Work faculty I am helping with promotion statements) or the joy of sharing one's thoughts and memories (like the blog books I've written to record our family's travels around the planet).

Thanks again, Kurt, for your time, and for the wonderful welcome I have received at the Rutgers Writing Program. I have attached my teaching narrative and would be happy to share some academic and news writing samples. Please let me know if I can provide anything further and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Gratefully,



Dave Howland, Ph.D.