

**The following suggested revisions are listed in chronological order as they appear in the article.**

**All original passages are taken with respect to the article “A Brief History of Technical Communication”.**

#### **Suggested revision 1:**

**Original:** “From the fourteenth century on, the social system of science has depended on technical communication to describe, disseminate, criticize, use, and improve innovations and advances in science, medicine, and technology.”

- Specifying the notion that the social system of science has used technical communication “from the fourteenth century on” is not necessary because we are already talking about its innovation anyways through the article.
- Use of the words “social system of science” can be confusing to the reader and should be replaced. It can easily be interpreted into unrelated things like associating partying with science. We are already talking about science in the second half of the sentence so “of science” is redundant
- “Depended” is a key word because if we leave it out, it sounds like we are just generalizing the role of technical communication in science.
- Improving innovations and advances is essentially saying the same thing and sounds wordy so its a good idea to just use one or the other.

#### **Suggested revision 2:**

**Original:** “Rapid change in technical communication has been obvious during the past few decades with the advent of computers, laser printers, the Internet, and other developments.”

- The word “rapid” in technical communication is not hedging because it is necessary to relate to the notion that the rapid progression of technology has allowed for rapid changes in technical communication
- The words “has been obvious” is confusing; obvious to who? I would take this out this because its redundant.
- Listing the sorts of developments such as computers and laser printers is unnecessary because it is wordy.
- Short and brief and conveys the idea to the reader without using words such as “advent” which can be confusing.

### **Suggested revision 3:**

**Original:** “Scientific observations and technological developments were recorded in early writings and transmitted orally and through example, such as by apprenticeships”

- “Scientific” and “technological” are not hedging words because they correctly compliment “observations” and “developments” respectfully. “Observations” and “developments” used on their own can divert the reader from the subject of the sentence completely which is on science and technology.
- The phrase “transmitted orally and through example” is unnecessary and should be changed. The word “transmitted” makes the non-technical reader think of radios and viruses.
- Giving the example of “by apprenticeships” is confusing. Some readers do not understand what an apprenticeship is (I don’t and had to look it up on Google). I would leave that out in a re-write.

### **Suggested revision 4:**

**Original:** “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.”

- Lots of redundancy; two cases of the words “major”. I would remove one of the cases at the very least.
- Use of the words “the beginning” makes it sound like the scientific journal was an event that occurred. I would re-write this as it makes the scientific journal sound like a story to be told.

### **Suggested revision 5:**

**Original:** “These periodicals were established by the emerging scientific societies and institutes not so much to publish original research but to digest and comment on the now vast amount of letters and tracts put into circulation among the members of the scientific community”

- The definition of the word “periodicals” is confusing because it is too technical. I would change it to “journal” because it relates to the topic at hand.
- The phrase “not so much to publish original research” is redundant and I would leave it out as it just specifies the contrast of the point of the topic.
- “Now” is hedging and adds unneeded context, I would remove this word.
- Use of the word “established” in relation to the journals makes it sound to the reader as if the journals were created like a business.

### **Suggested revision 6:**

**Original:** “From the beginning of journal publishing in 1665, the number of such publications has increased exponentially almost unabated, doubling every 15 years.”

- The clause at the start of the sentence is confusing, specifically the phrase “from the beginning” and should be replaced.
- “Almost unabated” is hedging and not necessary. I would remove this.
- “Increased exponentially” is basically saying the same thing as “doubling every 15 years” I would just have one or the other.

### **Suggested revision 7:**

**Original:** “Technology and the underlying scientific research were provided an impetus during the eighteenth century by the introduction of the patent system.”

- The definition of “impetus” is vague because the “patent system” is not clearly defined either. I would get rid of this word completely.
- The way the phrase “the underlying scientific research” is structured makes it sound as if technology and its advancement is not the topic being talked about

### **Suggested revision 8:**

**Original:** “In the first half of the twentieth century, war was the most important driver of scientific and technological advance.”

- “War was the most important driver” does war drive automobiles? The word “driver” can be interpreted in different ways. I would replace this with a different word.

### **Suggested revision 9:**

**Original:** “The practice of technical communication is among the beneficiaries of belligerence.”

- The word “belligerence” is too technical and unnecessary, its definition is confusing. It basically just means warfare so I would change it to something like that
- “Practice” can mean practicing for an activity which has nothing to do with the topic of the sentence. I would replace practice with “use” because it is vague and can easily be misinterpreted.

### **Suggested revision 10:**

**Original:** “Technical writing became recognized as a job title, if not a profession, during World War II as the technology and logistics of battle became complicated and required standardized procedures, definitions, descriptions, instructions, and training. World War II also

fundamentally changed the nature of universities and their relationship with government, particularly the military sector.

-Lots of hedging

-“nature of universities” are we talking about trees and animals on university campuses? I would revise this phrase.

- The structure of the last sentence is confusing and sounds as if it is relating universities to the military sector of the government. I would completely leave this sentence out of a re-write of the original.