Technical Style

- Best way to write great documentation is to learn how to write and to write a lot, general writing (in English) carries over to writing code as well as technical writing.

- Writing code is similar to writing words (best way to get better is to practice it more)

- Just write, don't think too much about editing what you write

- You need to use correct grammar to avoid confusion/ ambiguity

- Be consistent with style, don't fret about switching between citation styles etc, learn one and get good at it

- Technical documentation differs from academic material

- Good documentation will heavily rely on markup

- Academic printed material is different when read online

- Many style guides are oriented towards academic environments. Expectations for style are different online.

- For style, write in a tone similar to the way you talk in real life

- There is no single standard or right way to write in technical writing

- Avoid hedging and redundancy for example instead of "this is pretty good code" write "this is good code" instead

- Use inline markup or in other words avoid writing in large chunks of text because it is harder to read

- Unlike academic writing, tables, lists and figures are vital in technical documentation. It is easier to depict technical information by looking at figures than it is by reading technical writing.

- The more visual technical writing is, the easier it is to understand by the general audience. Think of IKEA instructions.

Editing

- Don't be afraid to criticize others work.

- Don't edit without asking for permission (those who are asking you to edit their work are looking to improve)

- Avoid editing your own work (it's difficult to criticize your own thinking)

- Editing on paper is much more efficient than editing online

- Be consistent with your editing style. Pick a style and get good at it

- Don't edit and write at the same time

Commit messages

- Keep commit message brief, about 72 characters or less because git log doesn't wrap commit messages

- Have a subject line and a body (think of writing an online email)

- The line separating the subject from the body is important and should be there

- Typical convention is using a hyphen instead of a bullet