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**Summary**

James R. Koelsch went against the grain of most engineers when he claimed in his article "Is Writing an Essential Skill for Engineers?" that writing is one of the most important skills engineers need to be successful in their careers. While developing skills such as coding, programming, or troubleshooting is ingrained in every engineer's subconscious, Koelsch provided examples and evidence of other engineers who achieved success by strengthening and developing writing skills to persuade readers. He also pointed out that writing skills should be strengthened before learning software skills in college because many companies look for good writing skills when hiring. However, his argument is weakened because he misses opposing views and focuses mostly on the benefits of good writing, rather than addressing how poor writing can negatively affect career growth. His case would be stronger with more solid facts and scientific evidence, instead of just examples from engineers he knows or from books and articles.

**Analysis**

Koelsch makes excellent use of techniques such as anecdotes, examples, and facts to strengthen his argument. His constant use of these techniques throughout the paper makes his argument strong, but it also leaves weak evidences that can lead readers to overlook the argument he presents.

First, Koelsch bases his case on anecdotes from engineers he knows from books and publications. He tells the story of Michelle Bryner, an engineer, who led a global initiative and obtained funding by using her writing abilities. This example shows the reader that leadership requires more than just experience or specific technical knowledge accumulated over years, but also requires leaders to have writing skills to share their findings in written reports. Another example is Alan Rossiter, who contends that in order for engineers to advance past computations and assume leadership roles, they must possess strong communication abilities, particularly in writing. Both examples support Koelsch's claim that writing abilities are crucial for career advancement into leadership roles, even for entry-level workers. These stories show the benefits of writing well, but they fail to highlight the difficulties that come with the poor of writing. If the author had added examples of the negative impacts of not improving writing abilities on the job, the post would have been more persuasive. The essay could show how miscommunication in technical reports has led to project delays or misinterpretations of important findings. It would be important to emphasize both the benefits and drawbacks of writing abilities.

Koelsch then uses examples of large companies or projects that require a high level of written communication skills. Rockwell, for example, has always valued core technical competencies, but management at the company felt that technical skills alone were not enough to move ideas from concept to reality on the factory floor. Writing reports is important and challenging because it is difficult to make a complex project report easy to understand and simple. As a result, encouraging engineers to build and maintain strong communication skills, especially in writing, is essential for handling the many proposals, contracts, instructions, and business documents required in their work. He further references Bryner’s example, showing how her clear and concise reports enabled her to lead major projects and advance her career. However, these examples primarily focus on engineers in leadership roles or working on large projects, which limits the generality of his argument, as it may not apply to all engineers. To address this, he could have considered the issue from a broader range of perspectives and positions. Adding examples such as the importance of writing skills for daily tasks in the work environment, such as writing emails or project reports, would have made his argument more relevant for everyone from entry-level employees to leaders.x

Additionally, Koelsch provides some information, such as how Cleveland State and Purdue universities, which are engineering schools, have added technical writing courses to their program because they understand how important it is for students to develop their writing skills before they begin working for companies, or how Rockwell Automation chooses job candidates based on their writing abilities rather than just experience or technical skills. These facts help support his argument, but the article could have been stronger with more data, such as surveys or industry studies that show how writing skills impact career success. Engineers tend to appreciate data and facts, so including statistics about how writing skills affect job performance, promotions, or career satisfaction would have made Koelsch’s point more convincing.

**Conclusion**

In his article, Koelsch highlighted the importance of developing writing skills instead of focusing solely on technical skills. His use of supporting anecdotes, examples of successful real-life engineers, and facts from schools and companies that value writing skills made his argument more convincing. However, he failed to provide more concrete evidence and data to appeal to the logical reasoning of engineers. His neglect to consider issues from multiple perspectives also weakened his argument.