*Your Discussion #1 was a headstart for this Major Project!*

*What is technical writing as you understand the term? Are you pursuing a career in technical writing? If so, what opportunities across what fields are out there and where? What do daily responsibilities look like? If not pursuing this field, how is technical writing applicable to your field? Will you personally be using it in your daily work or will you work alongside those using it? In 1,000-1,500 words, present a research-based outlook for what technical writing means to you and your field.*

# Why a research paper?

The purpose of a research paper is to address a question or problem. With this first unit, we are asking, “What is technical writing, and why is it important to me?” Your paper will attempt to answer this in regard to how technical writing is intertwined throughout your future career field. Not only will this research help you understand the importance of technical writing, but it will also provide practice in the basic principles of academic composition… research.   
  
From the instructor’s point of view, this research paper is a good starting point to see individual levels of knowledge, rhetorical understanding, and writing processes. In other words, this paper will help set the tone for the semester’s weekly assignments and needs.

# What you will learn/gain from this assignment:

* practice in generating and developing an idea
* basic writing conventions, such as writing in complete sentences and using correct punctuation
* identifying audience and applicable tone
* how to conduct scholarly research
* how to critically revise and edit a composition
* the rhetorical functions of citations

# Notes you should take into consideration:

* Start a Google Doc in your class “Last Name” folder, and write directly in the document. Do not try to write elsewhere and move your document into the folder.
* Your audience (i.e. your instructor and classmates) is considered scholarly peers.
* This paper can be as humorous, serious, sad, happy as you would like. However, writing to your audience is vital and should determine the tone you choose.

# Technology you will be using:

* Google Docs
* Blackboard Discussion Board
* [UALR Library - Article Search](https://ualr.edu/library)

**What should your paper look like:**

* Your essay must consist of the following parts:
  + MLA or APA Header
  + Title
  + Introduction (including the thesis statement)
  + Body (a minimum of three paragraphs and must include one table/chart created by you)
  + Conclusion
  + Works Cited (MLA) or References (APA)
* Your essay must be 1,000-1,500 words in addition to the Works Cited (MLA) or References (APA) page.
* Your essay must include no less than three reputable sources, including applicable in-text and works cited/references citations.
* MLA or APA, choose the appropriate citation for your future career field.
* Format margins, headers, and footers to the applicable MLA or APA style chosen.
* Use Times New Roman font, 12pt.
* Your paper must be double-spaced, with paragraphs indented.

**How to submit assignment:**

***OPTIONAL - Rough Draft*  
Due Sunday, September 11, at 11:59 p.m.**If you would like instructor feedback on your rough draft, this is your chance! However, your participation in this step is not required and has no bearing on your final draft essay grade.   
  
Send a Google Doc share notice to your instructor. Be sure to set permissions to comment. Your instructor will include feedback directly in the Google Doc. A rough draft is not an outline. This draft should show your ideas are complete and paragraphs, sentences, and grammar written to the best of your ability.

***REQUIRED - Final Draft*  
Due Sunday, September 18, at 11:59 p.m.**Post the Google Doc hyperlink in your group’s Discussion #3. Be sure to set permissions to allow anyone with a UALR account to comment. Once the hyperlink has been posted by you, no changes may be made to your essay. Your instructor will assume it is ready for grading.

**Grading:**

* See the [class website About page](https://sites.google.com/ualr.edu/rhet3326fall2022/about) for rubric information.