

## Ethical Issues in Technical Writing

Technical writing has a number of moral and ethical standards that a technical writer needs to comply with. Violate them at your own peril by risking the sudden demise of your career. So consideration of ethical and moral principles must be obeyed while writing a technical article.

According to the Markkula center for Applied Ethics, the term ethics encompasses the “well-founded standards of right and wrong that prescribe what humans ought to do, usually in terms of rights, obligations, benefits to society, fairness, or specific virtues” (Velasquez et al.).

The concept of ethics is as important in technical writing and issues can arise in any stage of the writing process when ethical principles are disregarded.

The following are five ethical issues important to technical writing.

### 1. Being truthful

When researching for and preparing technical documents, the writer must provide information that is truthful. He or she must not lie about they are presenting.

### 2. Addressing problems ethically

Addressing the problems ethically means clearly, thoughtfully. And conscientiously communicating the details of the problem, the source of the problem and the solution(s).

### 3. Plagiarism

Means- copying and pasting from other people’s work as yours is a reprehensible criminal act. It’s theft. You just do not do it. The researcher, compiler or author of technical document must take care to acknowledge the sources of information used as well as the collaborators that took part in the process.

### 4. Misleading readers

A misleading technical document presents information in a way that makes it likely that a reader will reach incorrect conclusions. Misleading techniques often used in technical communication include false implications, exaggerations, legalistic constructions and euphemisms (Markel and Selber).

### 5. Discriminationary language

The audience for technical documents will likely include different individuals from a wide variety of culture and social backgrounds. For that reason, language that discriminates against the region, race, sex, orientation and abilities of people must be avoided.

Considering these important ethical issues, people must address them appropriately. Niel Hamilton, in his discussion of technical communication ethics in the legal context, mentions that “[a]ccuracy in the recording and use of evidence and non-falsification are simply so fundamental as to be assumed in the common understanding of ‘intellectual honesty’ and ‘best scholarly’ [and ethical] standards”

Ethical issues related to writing are generally addressed for many people, early in grade school and continue to be stressed throughout high school and college.

In workplace, professional code of ethics can be addressed.

The article “The evil in technical communication” describes Aristotle’s view that people must not **‘advocate evil’** when communicating. According to the article, Craig and Carol Kallendorf determined in their of Aristotle ethics that advocating evil means, **“any effort to manipulate the audience’ which includes stirring up emotions inappropriate to the circumstances or concealing motivations and intentions”** (Boedy).

Govindasamy Agoramoorthy in the article **“ Multiple first authors as equal contributors: is it ethical”?** also describes an **“ethical crisis”** that is becoming widespread in the writing of scholarly articles; the crisis is based on giving credit to multiple authors of and contributors to an article.

Lalan shai said,” সদা সত্য বল, সৎ পথে চল মনরে আমার.....”

একটি পণ্যের টেলিভিশন অ্যাড অনুযায়ী-

”তুমি তো উড়তে শিখিয়েছ -> (এটা ছাত্রদেরকে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় শেখায়)

উঁচুতে উঠতে পারব না, তা তো শিখাওনি” ->(এটা ছাত্রদের নিজে অর্জন করতে হয় চেষ্টায়- সততায়)

### Acknowledgments

The preferred spelling of the word “acknowledgment” in American English is without an “e” after the “g”. Use the singular heading even if you have many acknowledgements.