

# **Technical Writer**

## **Introduction**

Technical writing is information in simple terms so anyone can understand it. Technical writers work in a variety of industries including computers, manufacturing, software, engineering, medicine, military and biotechnology

## **Personal Attributes**

Technical writers must possess the following personal attributes:

- Good written communication skills
- Command over English grammar
- Interest in science and technology

They can also diversify into the following fields:

- Journalism
- Education and training
- Advertising

## **Scope for technical writing is in these areas:**

- Manuals and user guides
- Online help services
- Promotional writing material

- Newsletters
- Magazine columns

### **Technical writers are employed by:**

- Newspapers
- Magazines
- E zines
- Dotcom companies
- Computer software and hardware companies
- Advertising agencies

### **Career growth**

- Technical writers begin as trainees and rise up to the level of
- Junior writers – Trainees
- Assistant technical writer
- Technical writer
- Senior technical writer
- Editors.
- Editor analyst

### **Educational qualifications**

Preferably postgraduate degrees in language, journalism, science and IT .

### **Remuneration**

Junior writers begin with a salary of Rs.3000-5000 per month while senior writers earn up to Rs.10,000 per month. Editors take home a pay package of Rs.25,000 per month.

Beginners have the option of working part-time. With 5 years of experience, technical writers can opt to work on a freelance /telecommuting basis.

## **Courses**

Technical Writing courses have existed in the west for a long time. They are not so readily available here. Some institutes have now begun to offer classes.

### **K9 Technologies (P) Limited**

Unit C & D, Block B, Mandira Apartments,  
53, North Boag Road,  
T.Nagar, Chennai - 600 017

India

Ph: +91-44-28150456 / 0457

Fax: +91-44-43546625

Email : [info@k9technologies.com](mailto:info@k9technologies.com)

[http://www.k9technologies.com./](http://www.k9technologies.com/)

### **TASC Consulting Pvt Ltd**

They conduct public and corporate training programs on technical writing and technical writing tools such as Microsoft Office, Microsoft Visio, RoboHelp Office, Adobe FrameMaker, Quadralay WebWorks, Epic Editor etc.

TASC Consulting Private Limited  
D2/10 Khira Nagar, S.V. Road  
Santacruz(W), Mumbai - 400 054, India.

<http://www.tascindia.com>

(The website under maintenance)

[info@tascindia.com](mailto:info@tascindia.com)

## **These sites list more classes :**

### **Learn 4good.com**

[http://www.learn4good.com/great\\_schools/india\\_technical\\_writing\\_computer\\_training\\_courses.htm](http://www.learn4good.com/great_schools/india_technical_writing_computer_training_courses.htm)

## **Online resources**

### **Online Learning .com**

It provides a paid Certificate course online.

[http://www.online-learning.com/course\\_ptw\\_desc.html](http://www.online-learning.com/course_ptw_desc.html)

### **Doc Symmetry.com**

It is an excellent site for free courses and advise.

<http://www.docsymmetry.com/technical-writing-courses.html>

Unlike a school-based technical writing course, docsymmetry.com is free and does not give you any assignments. It does, however, provide many suggestions on how to write excellent documentation. In particular, [Becoming a Technical Writer](#) and [Hiring a Technical Writer](#) provide you with very concrete information. If you study these and the other articles on this site carefully, and if you [create a sample book](#) (let the sample book be your assignment!), you should become quite a knowledgeable technical writer.

### **University of Idaho**

University of Idaho Environmental Science Department offers an online Advanced Technical Writing course. It gives students

experience with the process of writing reports about on-going research for a professional setting.

### **Professional Technical Writing Course**

Professional Technical Writing is a 12-week online technical writing course. It teaches you how to write technical documents and how to write using XML. It's like learning two skills for the price of one! And both skills are in high demand.

[http://www.online-learning.com/course\\_ptw\\_desc.html](http://www.online-learning.com/course_ptw_desc.html)

### **Technical Writing Tips, Tricks and Tutorials**

This page talks about technical writing and how to create technical documentation that is accurate, readable, and helpful to its target audience. How to start a career as a Technical Writer.

<http://www.klariti.com/technical-writing/index.shtml>

### **Technical Writing Courses from Wikiversity**

**How to write technical documentation, user manuals, and on-line user help**

*Format:* print lessons, graphics, links to resources, exercises, optional discussion/feedback

*Reviewer/email:* Mike G - [greers\\_pm@yahoo.com](mailto:greers_pm@yahoo.com)

<http://www.bestfreetraining.net/?p=105>

## **Do it Yourself (DIY)**

You can also take some other courses that will help when you apply for a job:

- An advanced course of Microsoft Word.



- **English Literature.** to learn to read and write critically.
- A **Logic** course. This will help you decide "Does this make sense?" and "Is this logical?"
- A **programming course**, specifically, one that describes object-oriented programming.

Some Computer applications are essential for technical writers. Writers are expected to work with DTP tools (such as PageMaker), development tools (such as RoboHelp) and web tools (such as HTML, XML coding).

## **Societies for network and support**

### **Society for Technical Communication. (International Organization)**

Most STC chapters regularly host lectures and workshops that will not only aid you in your technical writing career, but will also provide you with many networking opportunities.

<http://www.stc.org/membership/join01.asp>

### **Technical writers of India - an association of tech. writers**

<http://twin-india.org/portal/>