

List of References for Technical Writing

On Grammar and Style

Blanche Ellsworth and John A. Higgins. *English Simplified*, 10th ed. New York: Pearson, 2004.

This book is more like a large pamphlet, and it includes sections on every type of grammatical error. There is a large accompanying workbook with great exercises. If you just want a book on grammar, I recommend this one.

Faigley, Lester. *The Brief Penguin Handbook*. New York: Penguin, 2003.

This book is used in many composition courses as a guide to research, style, and grammar.

Richard Lanham. *Revising Business Prose*, 3rd ed. 1981. New York: Macmillan, 1992.

This book is a great guide to writing clear prose that includes a helpful “method” to make turgid prose more readable. You can find this one cheap.

William Strunk, Jr. and E.B. White. *The Elements of Style*, 3rd ed. 1959. New York: Macmillan, 1979.

This source has been the standard for word usage since it first appeared. If you’re unsure about whether to use “which” or “that,” simply look it up here. This one can be found inexpensively in used bookstores.

Joseph M. Williams. *Style: Ten Lessons in Clarity and Grace*. New York: Pearson Longman, 2005.

This is the best book I have ever seen on writing clear prose. The ideas are similar to Lanham’s, but the exercises here WILL change your writing if you practice them.

On Engineering Writing

Alley, Michael. *The Craft of Scientific Writing*, 3rd ed. New York: Springer, 1997.

Alley’s book has become the standard text. It’s difficult to navigate, but he has a lot of helpful advice. I highly recommend this one.

David Beer and David McMurrey. *A Guide to Writing as an Engineer*, 2nd ed. New York: John Wiley and Sons, 2005.

A good book similar to Finkelstein’s but without examples of what the documents should look like.

Martha Davis. *Scientific Papers and Presentations*. New York: Academic Press, 2005.

This new text is very good, although it seems to be geared toward graduate students and researchers. It doesn’t include a lot of examples, but its advice is right on.

Leo Finkelstein, Jr. *Pocket Book of Technical Writing for Engineers and Scientists*, 2nd ed. 2000. New York: McGraw Hill, 2005.

Finkelstein’s text is used in ENGI 2304, and it includes many helpful examples of types of documents common to engineering writing. It is practical and helpful.

Hilary Hart. *Introduction to Engineering Communication*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson, 2005.

An excellent book with examples and chapters on presentations as well as organization and figure-creation.

James G. Paradis and Muriel L. Zimmerman. *The MIT Guide to Science and Engineering Communication*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1997.

This one is my favorite of the “guides.” It has chapters on the major types of engineering writing with tips for composing those documents.

David W. Rigby. *Technical Document Basics for Engineering Technicians and Technologists*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2001.

LOTS of great examples are included here for every kind of engineering document.

Susan Stevenson and Steve Whitmore. *Strategies for Engineering Communication*. New York: John Wiley and Sons, 2002.

This book concentrates on “strategies,” as its title says. If you’re looking for examples of technical writing, this book doesn’t have much. Its chapters on revision, format, teamwork, and style are really good, though.

Websites on Technical Writing

“Technical Communication Resources in Civil & Environmental Engineering.” Internet: Michigan State University, <http://www.egr.msu.edu/cee/techcom/>, accessed 3 Feb. 2005.

“ECE Writing Resources Center.” Internet: Mississippi State University, http://www.ece.msstate.edu/academics/writing_resource/writing_center.html, accessed 3 Feb. 2005.

“Online Technical Writing Center.” Internet: Mississippi State University, http://www.engr.msstate.edu/current_students/technical_communications_program/tcp/otwc.htm, accessed 3 Feb. 2005.

“Writing Guidelines for Engineering and Science Students.” Internet: Virginia Tech. University, <http://www.writing.eng.vt.edu/>, accessed 3 Feb. 2005.

“Engineering Communication Center.” Internet: University of Toronto, <http://www.ecf.utoronto.ca/~writing/>, accessed 3 Feb. 2005.

“Writing at CSU.” Internet: Colorado State University, <http://writing.colostate.edu/index.cfm>, accessed 3 Feb. 2005.