

LESSONS FROM STAR WARS[®] ABOUT TECHNICAL WRITING

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Technical writing is a style of writing that's used in technical fields such as engineering, consumer electronics, and software. The objective of technical writing is to convey useful information to readers that's clear and easy to understand.

Here are some lessons I learned about technical writing from watching Star Wars[®]. Perhaps you'll save a princess along the way.

"Pass on what you have learned, Luke."

— Yoda

You have the potential to affect change to your environment, and that potential comes from your ideas. All of us have world-altering ideas, but the challenge we all face is, "How do I convince others to accept my ideas?"

For your ideas to resonate with other people, you communicate either with speech or the written word. However, unless you're the decision maker in your company, the best way for you to communicate your ideas is with the written word, and that means putting pen to paper (or fingers to the keyboard).

"Stay on target."

—Davish Krail as Y-Wing pilot, Gold Five

Before you even start to draft a document, you have to know your readers because they are the ones who will be reading your document. Your readers can be divided into three groups: non-technical readers, general technical readers, and specific technical readers. They determine the words you should use, the technical depth you should explore, and the tone to convey.

Also, to give your document a better chance to be noticed, you should try to understand their expectations and write your document towards meeting those expectations. As long as you know your readers and what their expectations are, you can begin preparing an outline of your ideas.

"I am fluent in over six million forms of communication..."

—C3PO

In speech, we can convey our emotions through our voices. We raise our voices when we're excited, lower our voices when we're cautious, or change the cadence of our speech to draw our listeners' attention. Similarly, we use our body language to help convey our conviction, hesitation, or acceptance.

The written word is a more restricted form of communication. Instead of using our voice and body language, when we write, we arrange words, punctuation marks, and illustrations in an effective structure to convey our ideas.

Therefore, being precise, clear, forthright, concise, fluid, and familiar are goals that you should aim for when you write technical documents. These goals help you to convey your ideas effectively to your readers.

“Do or do not. There is no try.”

—Yoda

When it is time to begin drafting your document, perhaps the most difficult task is to start your first sentence. Trust in your ability to communicate. One strategy is to keep writing, writing, and writing: write any thought that goes through your mind. At this stage, you know what you need to write because you have identified your audience, captured their expectations, and most importantly, you have an idea that could change the world (or at least a little part of it).

Keep writing because revising, reviewing, and editing your document can come later.

“The Force is strong with this one.”

—Darth Vader

Your ideas can be a powerful force to affect changes to your surroundings. However, for your ideas to create a spark of change, you need to communicate so others may understand and accept your ideas. By writing effectively, you unlevel the playing field so that your ideas will stand out from the rest.

If you want to write effectively, and therefore start the momentum to change your world, then visit our website for details: <http://dreamcatcher.asia/training/courseprofile.php?id=TM236>