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Solving Problems In Technical Communication



Synopsis

The field of technical communication is rapidly expanding in both the academic world and the private sector, yet a problematic divide remains between theory and practice. Here Stuart A. Selber and Johndan Johnson-Eilola, both respected scholars and teachers of technical communication, effectively bridge that gap. *Solving Problems in Technical Communication* collects the latest research and theory in the field and applies it to real-world problems faced by practitioners—problems involving ethics, intercultural communication, new media, and other areas that determine the boundaries of the discipline. The book is structured in four parts, offering an overview of the field, situating it historically and culturally, reviewing various theoretical approaches to technical communication, and examining how the field can be advanced by drawing on diverse perspectives. A timely, informed, and practical, *Solving Problems in Technical Communication* will be an essential tool for undergraduates and graduate students as they begin the transition from classroom to career.

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Customer Reviews

"Using heuristics at both a macrolevel and a microlevel, the editors offer a robust framework for investigating, engaging, and resolving workplace situations that technical communicators often encounter. . . . *Solving Problems* is an ideal book for students in upper level undergraduate or graduate courses in technical communication. Yet, with its insightful chapters detailing professional development, new media, and visual rhetoric, the

book is also valuable to experienced technical communicators, who will find content that is applicable in today's competitive, media-influenced workplace." (Journal of Business and Technical Communication)"In Solving Problems, leading scholars explain how their areas of expertise contribute to technical communication. In assembling these scholars, Johnson-Eilola and Selber offer a collection that introduces readers to 19 areas of content relevant to the discipline, including new media, international environments, and information design. . . . The editors and contributors show readers how their technical communication education will influence the workplace and vice versa. To that end, they help readers see that education does not end with a degree; the workplace will be a learning experience for readers, and readers must adapt as needed." (Technical Communication Quarterly)"An accessible introduction to major topics in the theory and practice of technical communication." (IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication)"Provides a richer theoretical approach to technical communication. Such a collection is long overdue." (Programmatic Perspectives)"Solving Problems in Technical Communication is excellent, sound, and credible. Every chapter is engaging, easy to follow, and accurate, which doesn't surprise me given the editors and contributors—all are distinguished leaders with long vitas chronicling the major conversations in the field." (Tracy Bridgeford, University of Nebraska at Omaha)Winner (2014 CCCC Technical and Scientific Communication Award Best Original Collection of Essays in Technical or Scientific Communication)

Johndan Johnson-Eilola is professor of communication and media at Clarkson University. He is the author of *Datacloud*, coauthor of *Writing New Media*, and coeditor, with Stuart A. Selber, of *Central Works in Technical Communication*. Stuart A. Selber is associate professor of English at Penn State. He is the author of *Multiliteracies for a Digital Age* and the editor of *Rhetorics and Technologies* and *Computers and Technical Communication*.

this is a very difficult book to use if you're trying to get into or learn about technical writing as a beginner. The authors use many case studies and scholarly essays throughout the text to explain topics but it's tough to get a grip on the actual practices and standard conventions in technical writing with this book. I may not be the quickest reader, but sometimes it took me two hours or more to get through a chapter because they contain so much dense information that really distracts me as I'm trying to follow the concepts of document design and rhetoric which the author tries to contextualize with a real-world hypothetical scenario which begins at the front end of the chapter and wraps up at the back end. If you want to spend a lot of time reading, get this book. If you want

something concise and designed to instruct you, look elsewhere.

One good thing about this text is in its targeting of students as audience. Students of technical communication will feel directly addressed as they read the articles. Whether one is a student in a classroom at a university or someone making a career change and in the process of "studying up" on tech comm, the book will give that person a secure grounding in the major issues in the field, the lines of research and theory, and the practical ways of working that typify the field. The authors of the individual chapters are all well known and respected, and while they are university professors, they are not writing to other university professors, but to people who want to learn, who want a grounding in the discipline. This is a work of sage guidance. Overall, the collection is highly useful, valuable, well structured, and comprehensive. Steve Bernhardt, University of Delaware

I bought this book for a graduate class. I found it very informative and would like to read it again someday. It gave real world scenarios and explained things well.

Great essays. They truly represent what technical communication does for society.

Perfect for technology/communications courses. Thorough, engaging, and a great resource. Holding onto this one!

It's an exceptional book.

Convenient, but no real page numbers. This can pose a problem in classroom use.

This book contains articles on opinions of Technical Writing. While the articles provide a wide variety of topics there is just one article per topic so the reader is only given this perspective which requires further research and reading to better understand each issue. I believe carefully selected articles are a better use of students' time and money.

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