

How to Get Started as a Technical Writer

James Gill

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How to Get Started
as a

TECHNICAL WRITER

Why become a technical writer?
Should I get more training?
How do I get experience?
How do I get hired?
5 must-have skills
And MORE!

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James Gill : How to Get Started as a Technical Writer before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How to Get Started as a Technical Writer:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. A decent intro ..By eperduThis is basically the equivalent to taking a single "What is technical writing" class at a local continuing education school. It doesn't have a lot of depth and it's very high level.The author wrote a gentle easy to read guide and shouldn't be criticized for it but if you've even looked into doing technical writing on any level, then you know most of this stuff already. It's not new information and

it's not entirely relevant for all areas. One area that was surprising to me, in its lack of relevancy was the question of working permanent or working contract. In most areas now, perm positions are the holy grail and exceptionally difficult to get. Nearly all jobs for tech writers are contract based positions. It's cheaper and it makes it easier to get rid of people not working out. Chapter Four - Five Must-Have Skills provided a nice list of things you should know and a few resources that can help you. I think this was one of the better sections of the book. Chapter Six - "How do I get more experience?" was also a valuable chapter with some excellent resources and suggestions. This section, combined with the actual resources list in the back of the book was the redeeming factors of the book. I appreciate the time and effort the author took to write the book but don't really feel it is a valuable resource that I'll turn to when getting my career on track. It gave some good ideas but it really felt like a long blog post to me. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Concise but Packed With Useful Info By Music and Literature Garden I really love this book, and it was way better than I expected. I thought there would be a couple of links and pointers but basically I'd have to figure out how to get into the Technical Writing field on my own. What I particularly like about this guide is that each chapter ends with a series of questions or research topics for the reader to complete. The reader is encouraged to keep a notebook or computer document where he or she addresses these questions. They aren't silly, busy-work questions, either -- they're very useful and compel the reader to think hard about the direction he or she wants her Technical Writing career to take. This book is addressed towards people who are not yet in the field of Technical Writing, but I think it could be useful for someone whose Technical Writing career needs a fresh direction, or for anyone who fell into the field accidentally and wants pointers on how to network. I especially liked the list of alternate job titles for Technical Writers. This is so helpful for job-hunters because employers frame similar skills in many different ways, and it's exciting to realize that there are actually plenty of opportunities for which I am qualified but I wasn't searching classifieds with the correct terminology. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A must-read for anyone considering technical writing By Matthew Bachman This book is a clear, concise look at what technical writing is all about. The author struck a chord with me when he said he discovered that engineers tend to love math, whereas he sees math as just part of the problem-solving process. I'll never be a whiz in math and science, but many people have told me that I have good written and verbal language skills. I now plan to minor in technical writing to compliment my major in mechanical engineering. When I graduate, I hope to be able to not only understand mechanical engineering, but summarize and translate that knowledge into language non-engineers can understand. That is the advantage of being a good technical writer. There are many people who are brilliant at engineering, but not many of them have good communication skills. Technical writers are in demand (with salaries roughly equal to engineering salaries) because they can bridge that gap. Excellent book.

In 2010, US News and World Report named technical writing one of the "50 Best Careers" in the world. Want a new (or better) career as a technical writer, but aren't sure where to begin? How to Get Started as a Technical Writer is a practical, personal, no-nonsense guide to preparing for and launching your career in technical writing. You won't find a lot of fluff or detailed instructions on how to write. Instead, you'll get over 80 pages of concise, real-world information on what it **really** takes to break into the field. Take advantage of the author's 20 years of industry experience to get answers to questions like: What is a technical writer? What does a typical day look like? What are the "must have" skills for a technical writer? Should I get more education? And, of course: How do I get experience and land my first job? How to Get Started as a Technical Writer also includes an extensive list of useful Internet resources and a glossary of up-to-date technical writing terms.

About the Author A graduate of Fordham Law School and a veteran of the Marine Corps, James F. Gill is currently a senior partner of the law firm of Robinson, Silverman, Pearce Aronsohn Berman. He is the chairman of the board of trustees of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. He lives in New York.