

MAY 3, 2025

ODU ENGLISH DEPT. RESEARCH SHOWCASE SPRING 2025

MADISON RUDDEN - TECHNICAL WRITING

Using Technical Writing Skills in school, my career, or other real-world settings



Skills I've Learned

- Structured formats
- Benchmarking & theme analysis
- Clear, concise instructional writing
- Using headings, subheadings, and logical document flow

With my major being professional writing and a minor in political science, I've realized how important it is to know and become knowledgeable in these skills. Though they seem simple, they'll be significant for my future education and career.

Audience Awareness & Ethos

Adapting to Different Contexts:

- Tone/style tailored to professional audiences
- Ethos: Building credibility through communication and establishing trust with my audience

Applying this to the real world, I need these skills for job instructions, reports, and proposals when going into the field of professional writing. Understanding the audience will help make sure that every document I make is not only effective but also well-received.

Design and Visual Communication

- 60-30-10 Rule: Balanced color for visual appeal
- Gestalt Principles: Creating unity and focus
- Hofstede's Six Cultural Dimensions: Designing for different audiences and catering to them when making something

These skills are essential for my future career and other things throughout my life. I remade my resume using these design principles, and it brought it to a whole different level. I feel more confident professionally with more clear, polished, and designed documents now being skilled in these principles.

Professional Impact & Transferable Skills

- In almost every professional context, in my future skills like audience analysis, clear organization, and having awareness are so important.
- These tools will help me become more confident and clear in my work, whether I'm creating documents, leading team projects, or making proposals.
- Applying design and communication principles from this course will help me in my future as a professional writer.