

**Writing for Engineers or:
How I Learned to Stop Worrying about and Learned to Love Writing
By Daniel Kaplan**

You may be asking yourself, how crucial is a writing course for engineers? The answer, as I learned, is extremely vital. The writing course for engineers is akin to exercising a muscle that has completely atrophied in many cases. It allows students to work on an essential skill that often goes overlooked with a heavy math and science curriculum. Throughout the four projects during the semester, we worked on enhancing our skills **through the use of technology**. Our collaboration on presentations such as the group proposal and the technical description required the use of PowerPoint and Excel.

My first project in the class was the resume and cover letter. In class we went through **reading** different job postings and the class textbook for key words to match our job submissions that we selected. Finding out as much information as possible about where we were applying became crucial to the cover letter. It made sure that we considered our **audience and purpose**. In writing the cover letter it was imperative to use formal language to impress a prospective employer, as well as how important it was to match key words and do our own research about the employer to maximize our chances of getting an interview. This would lead to us getting a chance to tell our story in order to secure a job out there in the world.

Following our resume and cover letter was the lab report. In it we did research using the CCNY digital library. It helped us increase our **information literacy** by requiring the use of sources from the online resources we have as CCNY students. The database Academic Search Complete was my primary database for peer reviewed

articles, journals and texts. I would use the tools inside Academic Search completely to **cite** my references and get a deeper understanding of how **citation** of references in APA style is done properly.

After the lab report, I had the opportunity to **collaborate** with three of my classmates to create a proposal for a new student center. In our time working together we were **drafting** multiple versions of our document. We would each work on different sections, then go through each others work to edit and strengthen the overall project. The **use of technology** in our Powerpoint and presentation was a wonderful situation that allowed us to learn about each other and bring the best possible proposal to our class. The presentation showcased our abilities to speak in a public setting as well as field questions about our proposal. Ultimately it was a very rewarding experience where I learned how different students work and what they value in their campus.

The last project I worked on in the course was the technical description. I used a multitude of sources for research on my presentation of how control systems and technology has helped change storytelling in themed entertainment. I was able to **synthesize** all of the information into a cohesive poster. My in depth research led me to put together a properly timed presentation of 10 minutes. The technical description gave me experience for what a presentation at a trade show would be like, giving the same presentation multiple times over a day in front of different audiences.

The quest was a good showcase and culmination of all the learning we did during lecture. I learned about the different use of commas, semicolons, and what a fragment is. I also had a wonderful time going on the extra credit opportunity. Seeing the Paul

Taylor Dance Company perform allowed me to broaden my horizons of what type of culture I consume.

Looking to the future, I will put all of the skills I learned in this course to good use. I can use it to differentiate myself from other candidates when looking for work and completing work in the world. I will continue to use cross-disciplinary techniques in all of my courses and work going forward. I am glad that The City College of New York requires us to take this very beneficial course.