

## **Technical Description Reflection**

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Throughout this activity, we were able to explore what actual engineers go through when they have to design a new product. In the real world, when engineers come up with a new invention, or have to explain the use cases of a previous piece of technology, they need a systematic way to explain what a piece of technology is, how it is used, and any important information regarding it. In such scenarios, clarity is of utmost importance. One engineer needs to clearly convey what needs to be conveyed to another engineer, which will enable effective communication and collaboration.

One factor I had to consider when working on this project was what facets of information I should include in the definition. For every piece of technology, there are many features and aspects, ranging from chemical properties, to mechanical properties, to production, usage and disposal. We had to decide which pieces of information were important to include, and how to arrange all of the information. I feel I was able to determine this by thinking about the consumer, or the one producing the product. What pieces of information did I need to know to know how to use this product? What about understanding the production of it, risks associated, and factors of variability in this product?

Another important factor in writing this description was to what level of detail to go into for every subject. I feel this is where target audience comes into play. As mentioned for this project, our target audience is someone relatively new to the topic, who lacks extensive background information. While this means we need to include more background information, we

also need to reduce the amount of technical detail. This may bore the reader, or cause them to get lost, and have to read the passage numerous times.

Another aspect of learning from this project was drawing from previous sources, and combining between them. It was important in this project to recognize previous efforts to define our product, and to take them into consideration. We looked at a variety of sources, ranging from blogs to technical diagrams, to gain different perspectives on how our technology was designed, and what stood out to people of different backgrounds. Some sources had a very insidious tone, and were clearly directed to the very average chef, who does not have a background in engineering or product design. Other sources went into extreme technical detail, and used high-level vocabulary, clearly intended for people with an academic background. In this project, we combined between the two, utilizing the strengths of both when needed.

Overall, this project taught us a lot about the different types of writing within engineering. Instead of previous argumentative or debate styled writing, we were simply laying out the background facts on our project. We learned how to organize a technical definition, determine how much detail to include, and how to draw from multiple sources of information.