

Hiring the Perfect Technical Writer

A 100% Impartial Guide by a Seasoned Writing Expert that is Definitely NOT Drew Squire or Affiliated With Him in Any Way



PART ONE THE WHO

...coming up...wait, who?

Hiring the right Technical Writer for your company is not an easy thing to do. After all, not everyone out there can be the next **Drew Squire**. Anyone can whip up a resume with all the right credentials but little to no actual proof of their ability to do the job, then fire it out all over the internet hoping for a nibble. They might even get a big ol' chomp or two. They might even sink their teeth right into...

YOU.

How can your company ensure they are hiring the right person for the job? What kind of pitfalls do you need to look for? Is every Technical Writer just a different flavor of the same person? Will there ever be another **Drew Squire**? These questions may or may not be answered in the guide below!

(Not affiliated with Drew Squire even a little bit.)

PAGE ONE

PART TWO THE WHY

It's hard to explain what the point of a technical writer is to someone who has never worked with one directly before. After all, our job can be done by...anyone, really. Communication is, at a fundamental level, pretty simple stuff. Insanely simple stuff. Communication has been the backbone of humanity at its very core since the dawn of time.

And yet... Most people are **CATASTROPHICALLY** bad at it.

There have been countless, infinite workplace squabbles due to communication issues. Couples fight all the time over communication mishaps. Wars have been fought and even ended over communication errors.

You know it. I know it. Humans are impossibly bad at communicating with each other.

Technical Writers need to exist. Technical Writers are incredibly important in a world full of people who communicate with and interpret each other poorly. Wordsmiths have a place in our society, whether we like to admit it or not. Handing official documentation tasks over to an intern or random office temp may seem like an easy thing to hand off and forget about, until suddenly you start fielding questions left and right over a simple communication error the individual made. They are questions you shouldn't have to field. It's time you shouldn't have to waste. Because it was a mistake that could have been prevented before it was ever published.

You need the right person for the job. Why risk picking someone **NOT** named **Drew Squire**?

(Not affiliated with Drew Squire for sure.)

PART THREE THE WHAT

...coming up...wait, what?

Think of the last book you read that you really enjoyed. Could you have written it yourself? Almost certainly not. But could you cobble together the same general idea if push came to shove? Almost certainly not. But I might be able to. How can I prove I'm the real deal? How can you know that I'm not a **PHONY**? That I'm not just out here copying and pasting together something that **LOOKS** right?

TRAP ONE FAKE IT TIL' YOU MAKE IT

There are countless resources online to teach anyone ranging from complete newbies all the way to published authors on how to be a better writer and write more effectively. Anyone and everyone can hop on Google at any time and funnel text into grammar checkers, spelling checkers, and any other checker you could possibly imagine to hopefully end up with something better than what they originally fed into it.

TRAP ONE WHY IS THIS A PROBLEM?

All of these tools are simply meant to assist with writing, not do your writing for you. Even though I know for a fact it's being worked on, there is no such thing as an instant "Drew Squire" writing machine. No tools will help you properly convey an idea, a concept, or a translation from an engineer to the customer for easier understanding. Someone inexperienced in writing may check an incorrect suggestion from a grammar checker and use it thinking it is correct, when in reality they are only hurting themselves and their audience.

TRAP ONE HOW CAN I HELP?

I have spent extensive time self-training and working with a seasoned author to evaluate my personal writing style and ability to hone my craft into something I can truly call my own. I focus on writing in a clear and easy to understand manner, with the goal of conveying any idea to any audience with minimized confusion and maximum clarity.

PART THREE THE WHAT

...coming up...wait, what? continued...

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PART THREE THE WHAT

...coming up...class is in session...

TRAP TWO SPLIT DECISIONS

Finding a Technical Support person is easy. There is a great flood of people out there right now trying to find work from home in technical fields, which allows employers to pick and choose all the right properties and traits they need for their company with shocking ease. This concept can also apply to writers, but the supply is drastically skewed in favor of technical people. Finding **ONE** or the **OTHER** is easy. Finding someone adept at **BOTH** on the other hand...

TRAP TWO WHY IS THIS A PROBLEM?

The vast majority of technical support writing is ticket tracking. This is a hyper-simplified version of data entry that is amazing for compiling and reducing complex problems into an easy to digest format that works great for a small team of people. While this style is unquestionably helpful for tickets at hand, the style is not universal and would more than likely cause more harm than good if used anywhere else. The same concept can be applied in reverse to dedicated writers, who tend to use complex concepts and word choices which in turn makes it harder for some readers such as developers and engineers to understand.

TRAP TWO HOW CAN I HELP?

I believe that the key to this issue is not only finding someone who is adept at both, but is passionate about combining them in unique ways. Writing and Computers have been the pillars in my both my personal life and career for as long as I've been alive. I love to write and have probably started and stopped writing more books than most people have ever read in totality.

PART THREE THE WHAT

...coming up...parting thoughts...

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PART THREE THE WHAT

THE REWRITES PART ONE

The Original - The cadets did not agree on which facility would be acceptable for their meetings.

The Rewrite - The cadets were unable to reach an agreement on which facility to use for their meetings.

The Why - The original style is written in a **NEGATIVE VOICE**, implying that the facilities they looked at were unacceptable and therefore the primary issue for the cadets, when this should be written in a way where the issue is clearer (the cadets not reaching an agreement) and not a tertiary problem (the facilities being in an unacceptable state.)

THE REWRITES PART TWO

The Original - The building was renovated by the cadets.

The Rewrite - The cadets renovated the building.

The Why - The original style is written in **PAST TENSE**. Unless specifically working in a historical context or to purposely slow the flow of the writing down, it is generally better to write with **PRESENT TENSE**, or as it is commonly called, an **ACTIVE VOICE** to convey an idea as they tend to allow words to flow forward and keep the reader engaged.

THE REWRITES PART THREE

The Original - The staff was told this. All personnel on the list would get an immediate raise and a bonus.

The Rewrite - The staff were told that all personnel on the list will receive an immediate pay raise and bonus.

The Why - The rewrite simplifies the sentence structure to flow smoother and read easier, with a move toward **PRESENT TENSE/ACTIVE VOICE** in the

PART THREE THE WHAT

Thank you for your time!

At the end of the day, it turns out hiring the right technical writer is not only hard, it's almost **impossible**. Some scholars to this day are saying that the mortal mind is simply not meant to wrap their mind around the craft, and its secrets should be buried.

But luckily for us all, there is one person out there ready to brave the rough rapids and insanity known as Technical Writing.

Ask yourself honestly; at this point, can your company risk hiring anyone other than **Drew Squire**? Can you afford **NOT** to hire him knowing what you now know? Is that a chance you can take? I know I wouldn't. Good thing I'm definitely not him, nor am I affiliated with him or endorsed by him in any way, nor do I even know him.

PART THREE THE WHAT