



# Creating Collaborations: An Interdisciplinary Pedagogy for Professional and Technical Writing Students

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TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL WRITING PROGRAM  
MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

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UNIVERSITY

# Introduction to MSU



# Our Program and Our Students





# Scientific and Technical Editing Course

- Emphasis on audience adaptation; professional ethics; and document organization, style, and mechanics through a client-based editing project. Focus on building author-editor relationships while managing the editing cycle.

# Community Partner



- 60 Page Booklet to Edit
- Audience Research
- Style Sheet
- Editing cycle, contracts, and final submittals



# Student Experience

- I really enjoyed working with a service-learning client. It provided me with a real document that will be used by real people, which was a major source of motivation for me while I was working on it. I had an actual audience that I could think about while I was working and I had an actual client to communicate with if I had any questions.



# Foundations in Technical Writing

- Graduate students who are in our program.
- Some may have just finished a four-year degree in professional writing.
- Some students may have received a four-year degree in a different program, like communication or education.



# Interdisciplinary Project

- The project was a report for the City of Springfield.
- How can elderly people stay in their own homes rather than move to a care facility? Aging in Place
- Issues we needed to investigate: food availability, social concerns, transportation, and safety.





# The Students

- Undergraduate students served as subject matter experts and were from Dietetics and Gerontology
- Graduate students from Technical Writing learned about the audiences and wrote the report



# The Deliverable

- The report to the City of Springfield was the deliverable.
- Students had to analyze audience, determine what information was important to include, the design of the document, and page layout and design.



# Interdisciplinary Benefits

- Students learned about people who are one and two generations older than they are.
- Dietetics students taught about dietary needs, food availability, and simple, safe recipes.
- Gerontology students taught about needs of older generations, both social needs and exercise needs.



# Service Learning

- In addition to the benefit of students being involved with students in other disciplines, because it was a service-learning course, they completed a real project for a real client, instead of something for just the teacher.



# Questions

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?

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