

## Special Section CFP: Business and Technical Communication and COVID-19 (1,000–1,500 word articles)

*Journal of Business and Technical Communication*

Guest editor: Jordan Frith, Pearce Professor of Professional Communication, Clemson University

We are living through one of most tumultuous times in recent (and even not so recent) memory. The COVID-19 virus has spread across the globe and impacted billions of lives. Some supply chains have halted, unemployment is approaching record levels, classes have moved from in-person to online, and we face the possibility that the hospital systems in some areas may soon be overwhelmed. It is a trying time.

This CFP is a rapid response to that pandemic, one that hopes to elicit short articles that can help us better understand the role business, technical, and scientific communication are playing as people face this unprecedented crisis. We are less interested in analyses of purely political texts that do not have overlap with business, technical, or scientific communication. Possible topics include (but are not limited to) these:

- Communicating expertise to the public
- Understanding or misusing data visualizations
- Combatting the spread of misinformation online
- Analyzing rhetorics of health and medicine during a pandemic
- Producing infographics to capture the impact of COVID-19
- Analyzing the new terminology we use during this pandemic (e.g., “social distancing”)
- Discussing instructional material (e.g., how to social distance or how to wear a mask)
- Understanding businesses’ or institutions’ public or internal response to the pandemic
- Teaching business and technical communication during a pandemic.

The special section will contain short articles that will be published in the January 2021 issue of *JBTC*. Consisting of 1000 to 1500 words (including citations), the articles will be reviewed quickly. This quick turnaround will help our scholarship hit its kairotic moment. The articles will be double-blind peer reviewed, but we will be relying on other authors in the special section for peer review to ensure turnaround times work with our tight schedule.

Because this special section is designed to speed up the typical academic-publishing timeline, the deadlines are as follows. Please keep in mind these will be short articles, so these deadlines may not be as daunting as they at first seem.

- Title and 75–100 word abstract is due: **4/16**
- notification of decision: **4/18**
- 1000–1500 word submission is due (earlier the better): **5/11**
- All reviews must be returned: **6/1**
- Revisions received: **6/14**

Please send titles and abstracts directly to me, Jordan Frith, at [jfrith@clemson.edu](mailto:jfrith@clemson.edu). I’m happy to answer your questions as well.

Stay safe everyone!