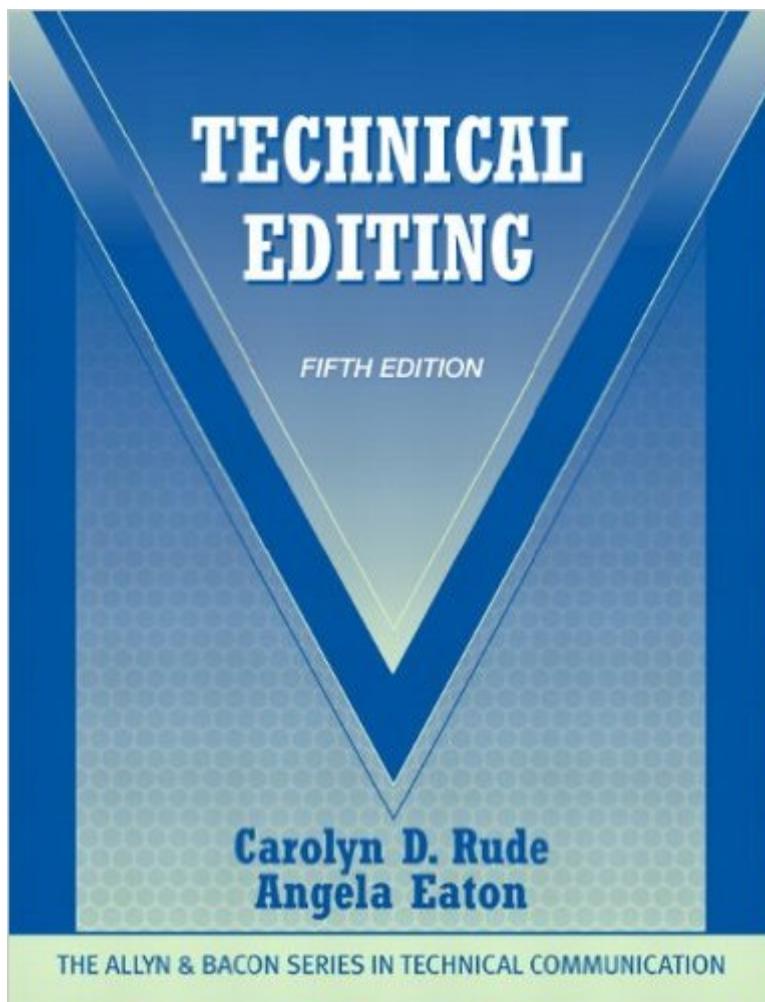


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# Technical Editing (5th Edition) (The Allyn & Bacon Series in Technical Communication)



## **Synopsis**

This market-leading text, which reflects recent changes in technology, workplace practices and the global marketplace, progresses from concepts and basic copyediting to comprehensive editing, management and production issues. The addition of Angela Eaton of Texas Tech University brings a fresh tone to her updates of content and pedagogy while retaining the authoritative voice of Carolyn Rude. Some of the text's changes include an update of Chapter 6, "Electronic Editing," and examples about editing Web sites are found throughout the text to support the increased role of online resources in every aspect of communication.

## **Book Information**

Series: The Allyn & Bacon Series in Technical Communication

Paperback: 432 pages

Publisher: Pearson; 5 edition (October 9, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0205786715

ISBN-13: 978-0205786718

Product Dimensions: 6.9 x 1.1 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars See all reviews (33 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #168,579 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #78 in Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Technical #5322 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering #31418 in Books > Textbooks

## **Customer Reviews**

Dr. Rude did a masterful job of explaining the concepts behind good writing. Reading this book improves your entire writing process by teaching the reader what he should not do when constructing any component within a document, be it a sentence, paragraph, chapter, etc. It also provides an excellent reference for copy editing symbols, defines the various levels of editing, and defines the roles that writers, editors, and publishers should have. Overall, Technical Editing has done more to improve my writing than all other writing books combine. It is a must have for your reference library and excellent for classroom instruction

I used this book in a recent technical editing course. I initially rented the book through , but the copy I received was falling apart, and had notes taken in ballpoint throughout; it was totally unusable, so I

purchased a new copy, also from . I'm glad I did, because this is a book that I want to keep. I've worked in public affairs and media for most of the last 25 years. Although I don't work as an editor, I feel it is likely that I'll refer back to this book regularly.

A thorough book, but much of the content seems very out of touch with the professional editor's environment and needs. There's a somewhat dated feel to the writing, and when it speaks with about "how things work" in the editing world, it's often wrong. However--parts are useful reference, and a beginner might find several parts useful for some basic understanding of editing. Don't buy this book to learn how to be a technical editor, though.

When I "fell into" the technical editing profession more than 20 years ago, there were no or few undergraduate or graduate programs in technical communication. My learning was on the job, and I was very fortunate to work under extremely talented editors who were willing to share everything they knew. I am now a highly respected technical editor for an international corporation. A new colleague, recently graduated with an M.S. in the field, introduced me to this book, which he had used in school. The chapters on copyediting and comprehensive editing in particular are excellent; the process descriptions are right on target. I highly recommend this book for both the theory and practise of technical editing.

Carolyn Rude's *Technical Editing* (fourth edition) is a solid, comprehensive volume equally suitable as a textbook or a desktop reference. It attempts to support the writer or editor of technical prose in the collaborative process of shaping rough text into a polished and accurate final product. Its scope is ambitious, ranging from exercises in proofreading hard copy using standard markup symbols to explorations of the legal and ethical ramifications of technical prose. I like the way that the author captures the real-world constraints that editors face: there is never enough time, content will never be perfect, and tradeoffs frequently need to be made. Just as important as his or her attention to details and standards are an editor's ability to compromise and work collaboratively with writers. In this regard, Dr. Rude's book stands in for an editing coach. I am not familiar with the earlier versions of Dr. Rude's book, so I don't know when the sections related to online editing and website editing were added. Sometimes the grafting of this content seems a bit clumsy; likewise, some of the content on laying out text for a typesetter seems dated. Even so, this book offers good and lasting value.

My professor said the newer edition didn't have significant updates. If you are an experienced writer, some of the content seems obvious but it's a good resource to have on the shelf for editing and writing. It is well organized and labeled - very user friendly.

Book purchased for daughter's college class, arrived in good time and in great condition. She will find it most helpful for her technical editing class. Price was better than university bookstore price. Super Saver Shipping helped a lot, too.

Dr. Rude was one of my technical writing professors. I recall using an early edition of this book when I was taking her class, identifying and suggesting edits as part of the class work...an instructive process. I have always found her guidelines to be clear and user-friendly. I do not agree with one reviewer's example of "handicap", as Dr. Rude was using that as an example within the admonition for caution, a sophisticated concept that was perhaps lost on the reviewer at the time. This book is a great reference and will be very useful for technical editors in any branch of the profession.

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