



# Public Speaking and Technical Writing Skills for Engineering Students, Second Edition

By Lea Nurske

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## Public Speaking and Technical Writing Skills for Engineering Students, Second Edition By Lea Nurske

This Second Edition of Public Speaking and Technical Writing Skills for Engineering Students has been significantly updated and revised in response to the needs of instructors who have used it in their classes. The most important changes are the inclusion of a major section on writing style and the use of PowerPoint software. Also new is a chapter on the skills necessary for conversing one-on-one with clients, reporters, lawyers, and prospective employers. The last chapter of this book is a discussion on the ethics of engineering communication. In using this book for instruction, the ethics of communication can be introduced separately, or, as is the case with most instructors, the ideas in the last chapter can be infused throughout the discussions on speaking and writing. When I taught this material I used three class periods for the writing and speaking topics and introduced ethical concerns throughout the course. An alternate method is to introduce ethics immediately following the chapters on speaking and writing. Either way, ABET emphasizes that ethics represents a major part of an engineering education and has made this a requirement for accreditation. Introducing professional ethics with technical communication skills affords a useful and efficient way of covering both topics. An instructor's manual for this book is available. Please contact Lakeshore Press, P. O. Box 92, Woodsville, NH 03785, telephone 603-747-8083. [This Second Edition of Public Speaking and Technical Writing Skills for Engineering Students has been significantly updated and revised in response to the needs of instructors who have used it in their classes. The most important changes are the inclusion of a major section on writing style and the use of PowerPoint software. Also new is a chapter on the skills necessary for conversing one-on-one with clients, reporters, lawyers, and prospective employers. The last chapter of this book is a discussion on the ethics of engineering communication. In using this book for instruction, the ethics of communication can be introduced separately, or, as is the case with most instructors, the ideas in the last chapter can be infused throughout the discussions on speaking and writing. When I taught this material I used three class periods for the writing and speaking topics and introduced ethical concerns throughout the course. An alternate method is to introduce ethics immediately following the chapters on speaking and writing. Either way, ABET emphasizes that ethics represents a major part of an engineering education and

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### **Editorial Review**

#### About the Author

P. Aarne Vesilind has an undergraduate civil engineering degree from Lehigh University and a Ph.D. in environmental engineering from the University of North Carolina. He has worked for the Bird Machine Company and the Norwegian Institute for Water Research. From 1970 to 1998 he was on the faculty at Duke University, serving for seven years as the chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. In 1998 he was appointed the R. L. Rooke Professor of Engineering in the Historical and Societal Context at Bucknell University and retired in 2006 to become Professor Emeritus at Bucknell. Vesilind has written a number of books on environmental engineering, engineering ethics and technical communications, including *Engineering, Ethics and the Environment*, co-authored with Alastair Gunn (Cambridge University Press), and *Hold Paramount*, also with Alastair Gunn, published by Thompson Publications. *Introduction to Environmental Engineering (PWS)*, co-authored with Susan Morgan, is designed for second year students in introductory environmental engineering courses. His latest book is *Socially Responsible Engineering*, co-authored with Daniel Vallero, and published by John Wiley & Sons. Vesilind won the teaching award four times at the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Duke and received two school-wide teaching awards from the students at the Duke University School of Engineering. He originated and for many years taught a required course in communication skills for engineering students.

P. Aarne Vesilind has an undergraduate civil engineering degree from Lehigh University and a Ph.D. in environmental engineering from the University of North Carolina. He has worked for the Bird Machine Company and the Norwegian Institute for Water Research. From 1970 to 1998 he was on the faculty at Duke University, serving for seven years as the chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. In 1998 he was appointed the R. L. Rooke Professor of Engineering in the Historical and Societal Context at Bucknell University and retired in 2006 to become Professor Emeritus at Bucknell. Vesilind has written a number of books on environmental engineering, engineering ethics and technical communications, including *Engineering, Ethics and the Environment*, co-authored with Alastair Gunn (Cambridge University Press), and *Hold Paramount*, also with Alastair Gunn, published by Thompson Publications. *Introduction to Environmental Engineering (PWS)*, co-authored with Susan Morgan, is designed for second year students in introductory environmental engineering courses. His latest book is *Socially Responsible Engineering*, co-authored with Daniel Vallero, and published by John Wiley & Sons. Vesilind won the teaching award four times at the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Duke and received two school-wide teaching awards from the students at the Duke University School of Engineering. He originated and for many years taught a required course in communication skills for engineering students.

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#### **Paul Butler:**

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