# Back-pocket topics for morning socials

A growing list of topics for [Write the Docs (WTD) East Coast Virtual](#) meetups. We'll turn some of these topics into focused conversations!

## Add a topic

To add a topic, insert a comment. The organizers review and revise this list regularly.

## Topics

- What have you been working on? Share a recent success story or challenge.
- What questions do you have for your peers?
- Have you ever served as a mentor/mentee? What was that experience like?
- What are some challenges of working remotely as a technical writer?
- Share your best tips for managing tight deadlines.
- How important are soft skills (communication, empathy) versus hard skills (coding)? How do these skill sets complement one another in technical writing?
- What is your favorite type of documentation? What do you like most about it?
- Share a success story where improving documentation had a significant impact on your users.
- What are some best practices for creating documentation that is easily translatable into other languages?
- Share a professional development goal you are currently working towards.
- What literary genres have influenced your writing style?
- What metrics or indicators do you typically use to evaluate the impact of your docs?
- What do we know about how people read online? (Isamu)
- How do you write blog posts? (Anne)
- Information gathering strategies (Tabah)
- Career paths and career transitions: What did you do before you became a tech writer? What skills, habits, and passions did you bring with you, and how do you use them now? (Carrie)
- handling the docs when your company is under litigation (not me but a friend of mine is going through it)
- Process improvement on review cycles (Maggie +)
- Navigating conflicts between multiple teams and reporting structures (Dallas+)
- New tools
- What support structures (online and offline) do you use in order to address challenges or improve your performance?
- Mergers and acquisitions: Have you worked at an organization that was acquired by another company? Differences in culture and philosophy regarding documentation, eg open source to proprietary.

- Maintenance: How do you save yourself from wanting to update all documents all the time? (Molly) / How do you avoid over-engineering your docs?
- Open source contributions and volunteering in general: Where to go, best practices.
  - managing documentation side projects with your day job
- Unified terminology and naming conventions: how to advocate, how to build (Carrie)
- Developers writing docs instead of TWs: when is this advisable?
- How to convince your department's most stubborn colleagues to advocate for quality docs
- docs advocacy in general
- How to convert old-school user guides to AI / chatbot-based docs
- how to stay up to date with current technology for documentation
- Impostor syndrome. How to cope?
- How to move forward from "old school" as in word to PDF booklets to the more advanced authoring tools or something else that will help.
- We didn't even really touch on the second half of this one, knowing when to move on. I bet there's plenty to explore there.
- Life after technical writing (and not retirement)
- KPI and metrics
- Visual content: Screenshots, videos, etc. Do you use them? How do you manage them?
- Language conventions: Simplified technical English, Plain Language.
- How to attract and keep good tech writers, UX writers? What's changing now and in near future?

# Topics We've Covered

These are topics that were added to the above list at one time and have been the topic of a focused conversation.
- Pros and cons of fragmentation/siloing and how to deal with it. (Carrie)
- **SEPTEMBER 20: Tech Wring job interview - what to expect and how to prepare**
  - writing assignments - examples of what people have seen (I can share 3)
  - types of questions you might get from a hiring manager
  - types of interviews in a company's cycle (HM, team, behavior/culture, product manager, ...)
  - what questions the candidate can ask during each interview type
  - what to put in your writing samples portfolio, and what to do if you don't have any samples
  - And if we have time, we can also talk about the search process
- Learning resources for tech writers, eg for API docs
- best resources for lone documentarians (Maggie)
- Handling communication with your team/coworkers, interpersonal communication (Anne, Kane +) including tools for communication, feedback (Taryn) and how to politely bug people for responses (Carrie)
- Feast or famine (Kane)
- AI: How we're using it, or why we're best not (Pearl)

- What are the top x things to do in the first two months on a job?
- Tips for managing salary negotiations and re-negotiation, and when do you need to job hop? (April 18)