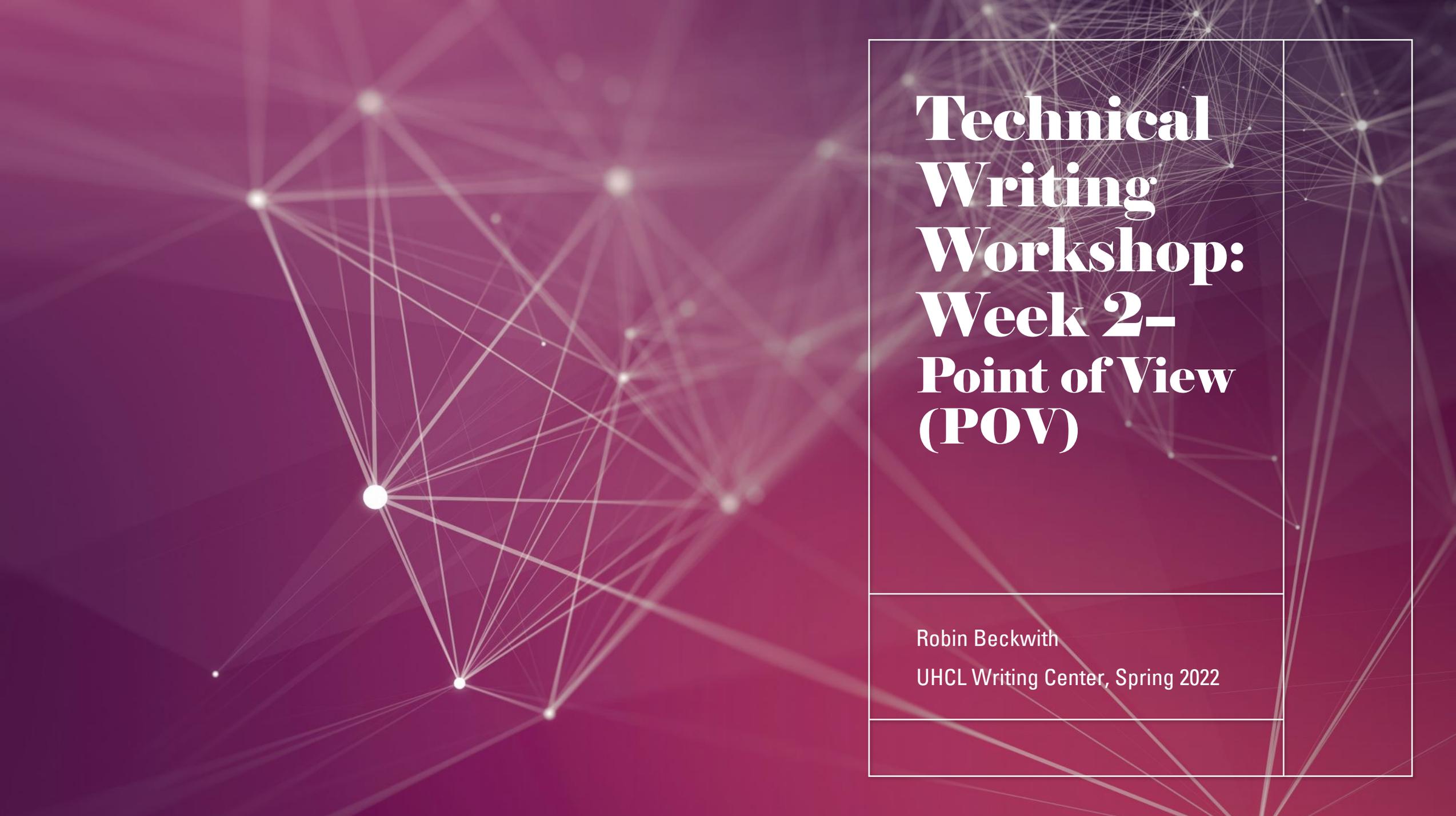




Technical Writing Workshop: The Quest for Breakthrough Writing

Robin Beckwith

UHCL Writing Center, Spring 2022



Technical Writing Workshop: Week 2- Point of View (POV)

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Elements of Technical Writing: Review

Point of View (POV): Who are you talking to? Who are you? What is your voice? What is the purpose of your writing? What is your time limit/word limit?

Sensory Elements: Sight, hearing, smell, taste, feeling/touch.

Relative Physical Elements: Scale/time, dimension/time, mass/time, speed/time, temperature/time, pressure/time.

Narrative Focus Elements: What, who, where, when, why, and how.

Elements of Technical Writing: Point of View (POV)

What is your word limit/time limit?

Whom are you talking to?

Who are you? What is your voice?

What is the purpose of your
writing?

Elements of Technical Writing: Point of View (POV)

Whom are you talking to?

Child? Adult? Expert? Curious?

Imagine a curious, empathetic audience.

Now. 50 or 100 years from now.

Fun POV exercise. Imagine you're a child two feet tall. Quickly write five challenges you face.

Elements of Technical Writing: Point of View—Your Audience

Do you have
something
significant you
want to explore?

Are you eager to
talk to the
audience?

Are you
enthusiastic or
afraid of what you
want to explore?

Are you bold,
straightforward,
or shy?

Elements of Technical Writing: Point of View—Your Inner Researcher

Your researcher is your inner questioner.

Your researcher demands correct answers—question sources, question the questioner.

What you are writing must be valuable and new to your inner researcher.

Your inner researcher is relying on you for writing they—and their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren—can trust.

Your inner researcher will question you. Your writing must answer these questions.

Elements of Technical Writing: Point of View— Your Inner Researcher

Celebrates well-written sentences; challenges sentences that are in some way unclear.

Pushes you to do your best.

Needs the information you're writing—whether it's fiction or fact.

Is calm and supportive of your best effort.

Elements of Technical Writing: Point of View—Your Voice, Your Purpose

Grounding yourself:
Who are you? What
is your voice?

Grounding your
writing: What is the
purpose of your
writing?

Elements of Technical Writing— Review

Point of View (POV): Grounding yourself and your writing—Who are you talking to? Who are you? What is your voice? What is the purpose of your writing? What is your time limit/word limit?

Sensory Elements: Sight, hearing, smell, taste, feeling/touch.

Relative Physical Elements: Scale/time, mass/time, speed/time, temperature/time, pressure/time.

Narrative Focus Elements: What, who, where, when, why, and how.