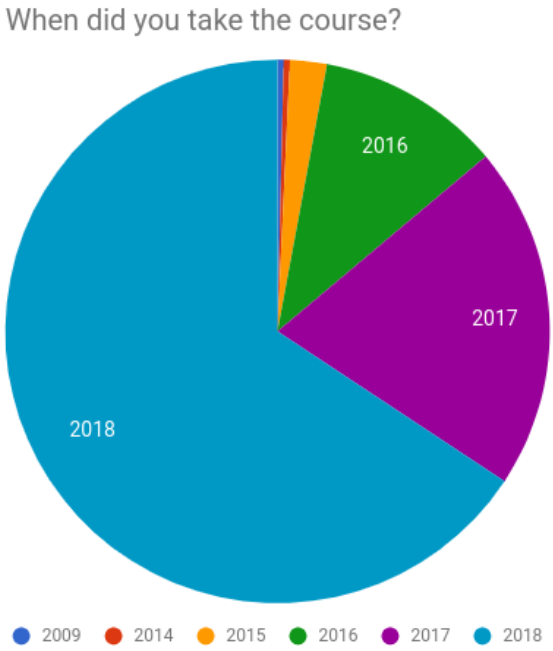
Results of Survey of Former ENGL 3764: Technical Writing Students (n=276)

1. In what setting did you take the course?

Face-to-Face	56.2%
Online	43.8%

Note: The reason a higher number of students who took the course face-to-face participated in the survey is likely owed to instructors who provided class time for students to take the survey.



2. When did you take the course?

2018	65.94%
2017	20.29%
2016	10.87%
2015	2.17%

3. If you have taken courses both online and face-to-face, which setting do you prefer and why?

Face-to-Face	58.73%
Online	25.4%
Depends	15.87%

Student comments about why they prefer **F2F** settings:

I prefer the direct interaction with the professor and feel like I learn more effectively. I do not like online classes and avoid the if possible as it feels like I am teaching myself.

[I]f I wanted to take an online class, I would go somewhere like Phoenix University for a lot cheaper.

Group projects were hard and it's difficult to remember that assignments were due without that reminder.

Virginia Tech is WAY too big...it is nice to have the opportunity to sit down in a small class and actually become acquainted with the students in the class. This is the only class where this has happened to me thus far at VT. This class was a gem, to me. I would recommend this face-to-face class above all others!!

Student comments about why they prefer **online** settings:

I prefer online for courses such as this because I felt like most of the time it was not necessary to come into class

For classes like this, online. I do not think there is as much need for in-person contact.

[T]his course made me think a lot for myself because I did not have the benefit of a face to face professor. It made me think for myself more.

Online because it allows me to do work at mostly my own pace. Face to face courses are reliant on how fast the class in general is moving.

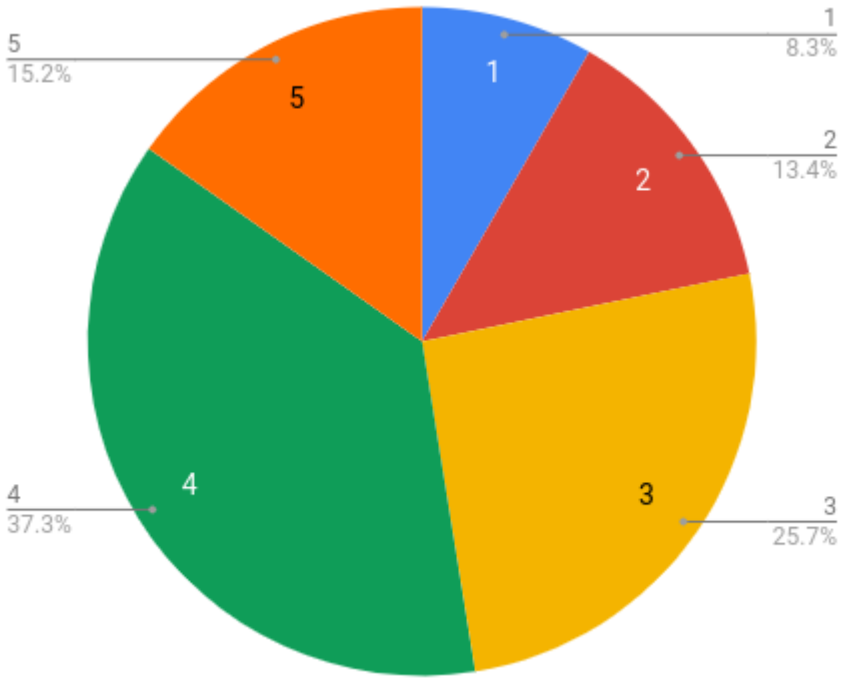
Depends on the class. For this course, I preferred online because it required less time and I felt the class was just a requirement to satisfy for graduation and was not super helpful.

4. **Have you had an internship, co-op, or job during your time at Virginia Tech that required workplace writing?**

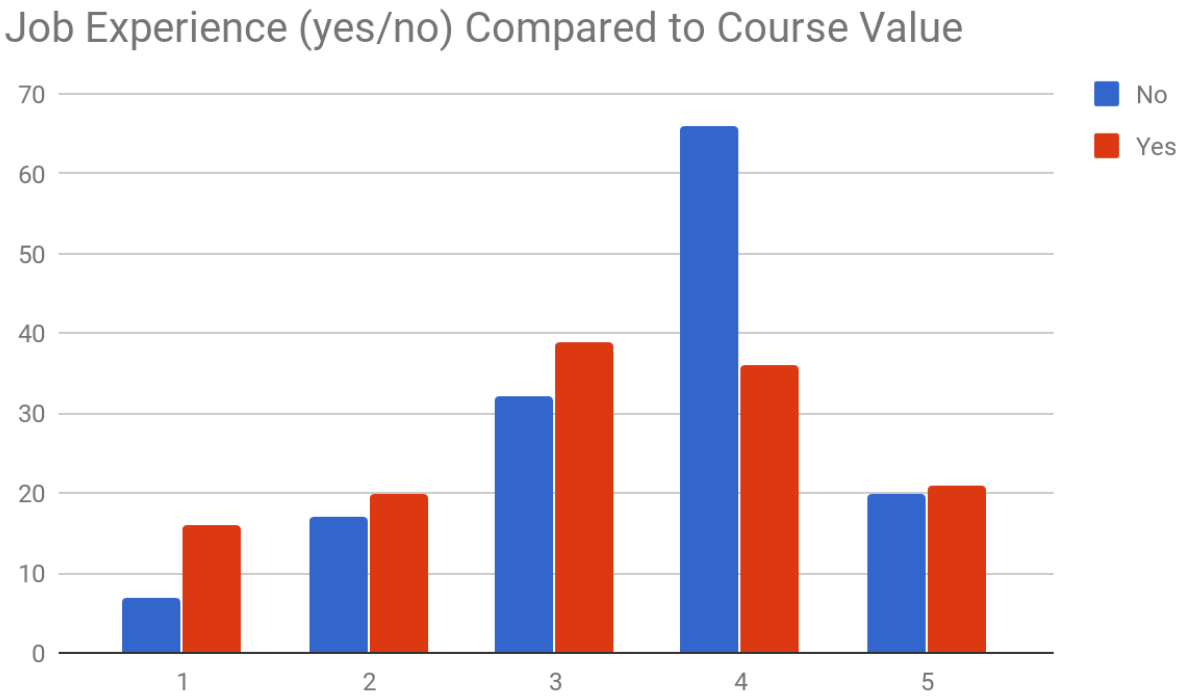
Yes	47.83%
No	52.17%

5. **How valuable was this course in teaching you genres and concepts you can use in the workplace?** (scale of 1 to 5 from Not valuable to Highly Valuable)

Average	3.38
Median	4



When comparing course value to whether or not students had a job, there is an interesting correlation. Students who have not had a job tend to rate the course value higher than students who have had a job.



6. **What genres did you learn in this course that will be most valuable or applicable to your future workplace writing?** (see full bar graph of responses on p. 4)

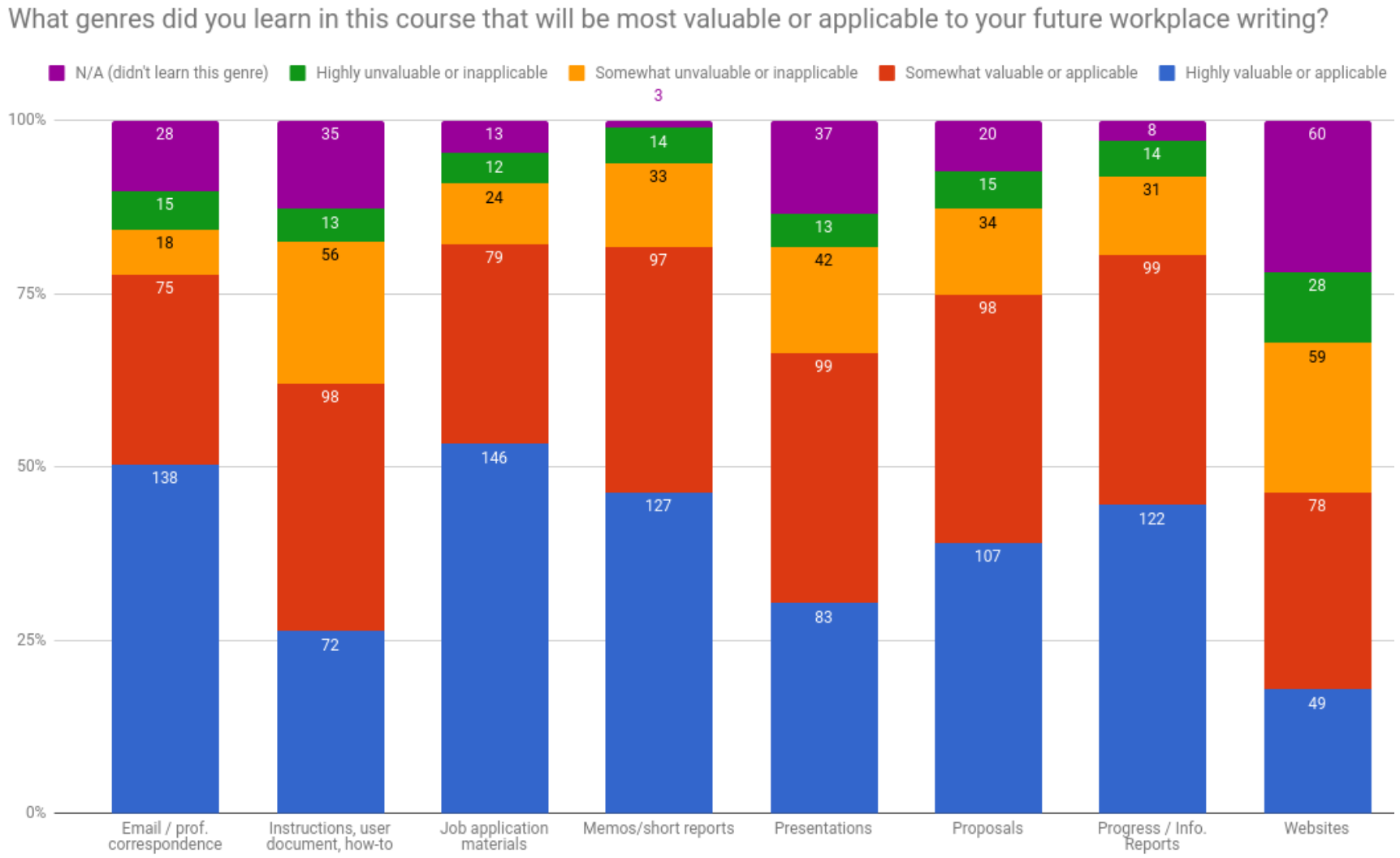
Most valuable	Job application materials
2nd most valuable	Email / professional correspondence
Least valuable	Websites

7. **What skills did you learn in this course that will be most valuable or applicable to your future work?** (see full bar graph of responses on p. 5)

Most valuable	Collaboration
2nd most valuable	Designing a document
Least valuable	Audience analysis

8. **What *assignments* did you find difficult in this course?**

Progress / Info. Reports	29.93%	None / Nothing / N/A	9.49%
Collaborative Project	24.09%	Presentations	9.12%
Memos / short reports	20.80%	Job application materials	7.30%
Proposals	20.80%	Web sites	7.30%
Instructions, user document, how-to	17.52%	Email / prof. correspondence	2.19%



abhutch@vt.edu
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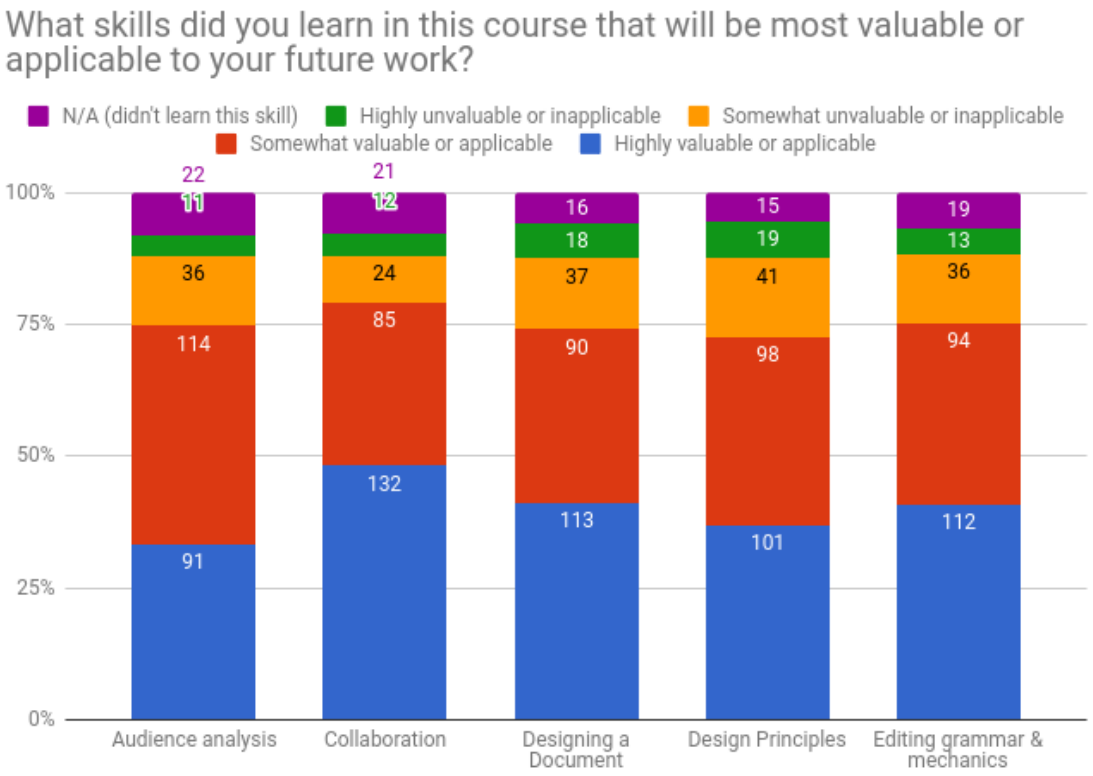


9. What *activities* did you find difficult in this course?

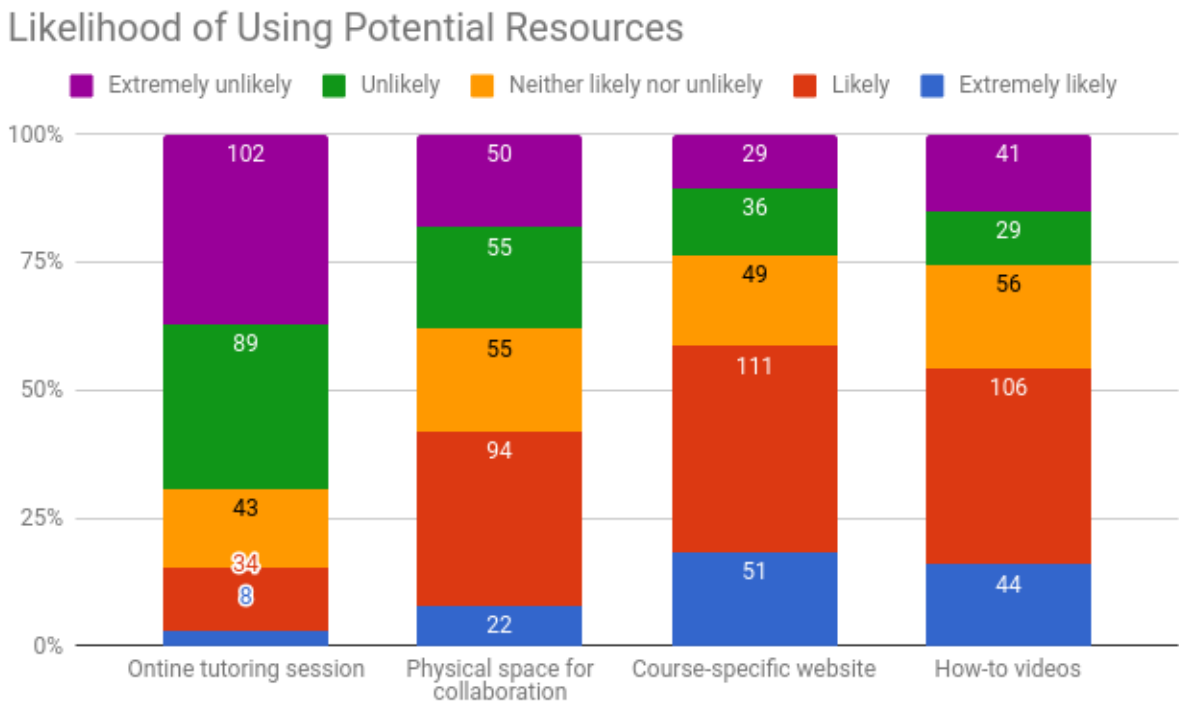
Graphics/Visuals Design	29.20%	Organizing Info to Write Assignment	16.06%
Audience Analysis	22.99%	Textbook Readings	9.85%
Topic Selection for Assignments	25.18%	None / N/A / Easy Class	9.12%
Document Design	19.71%	Quizzes	8.39%
Document Formatting	19.71%	Group	1.46%
Conducting Research	18.61%		

10. What kind(s) of resources did you seek while taking the course?

Examples (online, textbook, LMS)	63.50%	Textbook index	21.17%
Emailing your professor	50.36%	Office hours (if available)	14.60%
Purdue OWL	39.05%	Library	5.11%
Asking friend/family member	28.47%	Writing Center	4.74%
How-to videos	25.91%	None / N/A / Easy	4.74%

11. How likely would you be to use the following resources if they had been offered?
(on likert scale from Extremely unlikely to Extremely likely)

Most likely	Course-specific website
2nd most likely	How-to videos
Least likely	Online tutoring session



12. Demographic Information

Gender Identity

Male	55.9%
Female	32.84%
Blank	10.45%
NB or agender	1.12%

Racial Identity

White	61.57%
Nonwhite	23.88%
Blank	11.94%
Two or more races	2.61%

Disability Identity

Abled	7.09%
Disabled	1.87%
N/A, Blank, None	91.04%

Age

Average	21.26
Median	21

First Generation

Yes	20%
No	78.5%
Unsure	1.5%

Most Common Majors

Animal and Poultry Science	1.24%
Building Construction	3.31%
Chemical Engineering	9.09%
Civil and Environmental Engineering	17.77%
Computer Engineering	18.18%
Computer Science	20.25%
Electrical Engineering	13.22%
Environmental Science	3.31%
Fish and Wildlife Conservation	2.07%
Food Science and Technology	3.31%
Mechanical Engineering	1.65%
Packaging Systems and Design	2.07%
Statistics	2.48%
Water: Resources, Policy, and Management	2.07%