

## **Communicating in the Workplace: Self-Reports by New UWI Electrical and Computer Engineering Graduates**

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**Abstract:** *There is no existing research on communication practices in engineering workplaces in Trinidad and Tobago. The study maps the broad terrain of communicating in local industry by reporting quantitative data gathered by means of a questionnaire. Fifty-eight new hires in the field of Electrical and Computer Engineering were polled on the time spent communicating; common written genres produced; and the importance of communication to job performance and career advancement. The study revealed that in an eight-ten hour workday, new hires spend upward of two hours per day writing and three hours in formal oral communication scenarios. New hires can also expect that with and without substantial support they will be required to produce an array of communication artefacts. Respondents rated proficiency in writing, speaking and teaming as critical to career advancement.*

**Keywords:** *Workplace Communication; the Engineering Workplace; Electrical and Computer Engineering*