

# Leah Velleman, Ph.D.

Technical writer, editor, mentor, and toolsmith since 2007

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github.com/leahvelleman

## Experience

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### MathWorks

**Senior Technical Content Editor** 2018–Present

**Technical Content Editor** 2015–2018

☞ *Led development of a custom spell-check dictionary with a team of 20 contributors, cutting false positives by 30% for writers companywide.*

☞ *Made a data-driven case for phasing out a tool that proved irrelevant to reader experience and burdensome to writers, saving over \$60,000 a year in license fees.*

Edit complex, high-profile documentation and UX text for structure, clarity, and voice.

Advocate organizationwide for communication best practices and readers' needs.

Contribute to documentation planning and content strategy.

Coach writers in triaging and incorporating feedback from internal stakeholders and our user community.

Maintain and promote style guides for information types of all sizes – from book chapters to alt text and error messages.

Develop reports, compliance checks, and other tools to help our writers, inform our content strategy, and keep our site building smoothly.

Mentor junior editors and promote a culture of ongoing learning.

### University of Texas at Austin

**Technical Writer and Editor** 2009–2015

☞ *Sped production by centralizing our bibliographic database.*

☞ *Led the transition to formal version control.*

Wrote tutorials, API reference, and UX and help messages.

Produced background content that contextualized features and workflows and summarized relevant scientific concepts.

## Skills

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### Writing

API, process, & concept doc  
Science writing  
Content strategy  
Writing for translation

### Editing

Developmental & line editing  
Style guide development  
Terminology management  
Microcopy

### Mentorship

Long-term writer development  
Technical mentorship for  
“nontechnical” roles  
Editorial project leadership

### Tooling

Automation of quality checks  
Lexical resource development  
Metadata and annotation

## Technologies

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### Code and collaboration

Python XQuery  
MATLAB Schematron  
Git Perforce

### Markup and site generation

DocBook XML HTML/CSS  
L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X & BibT<sub>E</sub>X Jekyll  
Markdown Flask


### Doc tools

oXygen  
Acrolinx administration

Copyedited, typeset, and produced journal articles.

Wrote style and process guides for contributors.

**Teaching assistant** 2007-2008, 2014

 *Mentored Linguistics students who were first-time programmers to perform at the same level as their CS counterparts in an intro computational linguistics class. Built confidence, fought impostor syndrome and stereotype threat.*

Taught writing, logic, computational linguistics, and philosophy at the college level.

## **Education**

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**Ph.D., Linguistics** 2014

University of Texas at Austin

**B.A., Philosophy** 2005

University of Pittsburgh