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A Word from the Writing Center (November 2016)

Jennifer Wilson, MS, ELS

Thomas Jefferson University, Jennifer.wilson@jefferson.edu

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A Word From The Writing Center (November 2016)

WRITING TIP

Do you repeat in the Results section all or most of the data that readers can easily find in your figures and tables? This common writing mistake bogs down the Results section and diminishes the clarity of your manuscript. Use the results section to guide readers to the relevant figures and tables, highlighting only those findings that are interesting, unexpected, or noteworthy, and to describe findings not shown in a table or figure. For more information on designing effective tables and graphs, read chapters 16 and 17 in *How to Write and Publish a Scientific Paper* by Day and Gastel (WZ 345 D274h 2011).

LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

Learn writing strategies and gain insight into what editors want by attending the workshop **Key Steps in Writing—and Publishing—Your Manuscript** on Tuesday, November 22, at noon. Free registration available here: <http://library.jefferson.edu/tech/training-5.cfm>. A list of other upcoming workshops from the Center for Teaching and Learning can be found at: <http://library.jefferson.edu/tech/training.cfm>.

WRITING CAFÉ

Open every Friday from 9am-11am: Writing Café, a quiet space where writers can gather to work on individual writing projects. Writing Café is located in room 200A of Scott Library. Drop in anytime and stay as long as you like. All you need to bring is your laptop (or just a pad of paper).

For more information:

- Contact Jen Wilson, 3-0441 or jennifer.wilson@jefferson.edu.
- Visit the Writing Center on the web: <http://www.jefferson.edu/university/teaching-learning/writing-center.html>

GRAMMAR TIP: Do you frequently use “respectively” or “respective” in your manuscripts? Experts say don’t. “These words may usually be omitted with advantage,” according to *The Elements of Style* by Strunk and White (pg. 86). Here are examples of how avoiding their use makes sentences more clear and direct:

DON'T:	DO:
“The control samples and the experimental samples grew by 6 centimeters and 11 centimeters respectively.”	“The control samples grew by 6 centimeters, the experimental samples by 11 centimeters.”
Don't: “Review articles are cited by the names of their respective authors.”	“Review articles are cited by the names of their authors.”

PUBLISHING TIP: If you’re submitting your manuscript to a new or unfamiliar journal, be extra careful. Recent years have seen an explosion in the number of journals published for profit instead of science. These journals are published by predatory publishers that may send flattering emails to potential authors, promise quick turnaround on peer review, promote fabricated impact factors, advertise fake editorial boards, and charge hidden fees, among other shady practices.

For more information and for a listing of potential, possible, or probable predatory journals, consult Beall’s list (<https://scholarlyoa.com/individual-journals/>). If you have questions about selecting the right journal for your research, contact me (3-0441 or jennifer.wilson@jefferson.edu) or Dan Kipnis, Senior Education Services Librarian and Editor of the Jefferson Digital Commons (3-2825 or dan.kipnis@jefferson.edu).

READING: If you’re seeking material to inspire thinking among clinicians and students in the health sciences, check out *in-Training: Stories from Tomorrow’s Physicians*, a collection of narratives by medical students on being a physician-in-training. Essays and poems address common themes in health care, including dissection lab, communication and miscommunication, burnout, and death and dying, and each piece is followed by three or four questions for reflection and discussion. The book is available in the Scott collection (W 20 I35 2016).

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