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A Word from the Writing Center (April 2017)

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WRITING TIP

GRAMMAR: Punctuation—the lack of it—made [headlines](#) recently. Milk-truck drivers in Maine successfully sued their employer for \$10 million in overtime pay, all because of a missing serial comma. What’s a serial comma? It’s the last comma before the last “and” or “or” in a list, such as: apples, pears, and plums. Many writers leave it out, but the serial comma can go a long ways toward adding clarity and reducing confusion, especially when the list is long and descriptive. For more information, see section 8.2.1 of the [AMA Style Manual](#).

ORGANIZE YOUR RESEARCH

Do you struggle when creating a bibliography? Spend lots of time reformatting citations to meet journal requirements? Need help staying organizing? If so, you should be using a citation manager. Citation managers help you organize your research, create bibliographies, and change citation styles with just a few clicks of the mouse. Scott Library offers free access to [RefWorks](#). Other options include F1000, Zotero, and Mendeley. For guidance on using a citation manager, consult our [guide](#) or contact a Scott Memorial Librarian for a [consultation](#).

WRITING CAFÉ

Open April 7, 14, and 21 from 9am-11am: Writing Café is a quiet space where writers can gather to work on individual writing projects. It 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>