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A Word From The Writing Team (September 2018)


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BOOST YOUR COMMUNICATION SKILLS WITH NATURE

Looking for a primer on communication skills in the sciences? [English Communication for Scientists](#) is a free online publication from the Nature Education Series that provides succinct and meaningful guidance related to writing, presenting, and teaching in the sciences. The 6-unit e-book was developed with nonnative speakers of English in mind—native speakers will also find it useful.

Excerpt from the unit on writing scientific papers: “Scientific papers, like any other form of professional communication, are about getting messages across. To make sure you focus on the so what, create your scientific paper in a top-down fashion. First, work on the macrostructure: Select the content for your paper and organize it in a reader-friendly way, paying special attention to the beginning and the end. Then, work on the mid-level structure: Deliver one message with each paragraph using clear, accurate, and concise sentences. Finally, work on the microstructure: Polish your paper all the way down to the smallest details of the language.”

WIN A PRIZE FOR WRITING ABOUT HEALTH CARE

2100: A HEALTH ODYSSEY SHORT STORY COMPETITION

How will health and health care impact lives in the year 2100? Use your imagination and write a science fiction short story that challenges today’s assumptions about the future of U.S. health care. Sponsored by Thomas Jefferson University in partnership with Kaleidoscope Health & Care, the new international competition is open to all. The prize for the winning story is \$10,000, and the second place prize is \$5,000. Stories (maximum 3,000 words) are due **December 1, 2018**. Find details [here](#), and submit your story [here](#).

WAKLEY PRIZE ESSAY COMPETITION

The Lancet invites anyone working in a health-related field, including students, to submit an essay to its Wakley Prize competition on any topic of importance to medicine and health. The journal notes that the competition is deliberately broad to allow you “the creative space to write on any health-related topic that matters to you.” The winning essay will be awarded £2,000 and publication in *The Lancet*. Essays (maximum 2,000 words) are due **October 29, 2018**. Read previous winning essays [here](#) and find details [here](#).

For more information:

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- Visit the **Office for Professional Writing, Publishing, and Communication** (formerly the Writing Center) on the web: <https://www.jefferson.edu/university/teaching-learning/office-professional-writing.html>