
2-2022

A Word from the Writing Center (February 2022)

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Recommended Citation

Walter, MFA, Pam and Declan, MA, MFA, Liz, "A Word from the Writing Center (February 2022)" (2022). *A Word From the Writing Team (Newsletter)*. Newsletter 27.

<https://jdc.jefferson.edu/wcnewsletter/27>

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A Word from the Writing Team: February 2022

Introduction to Liz Declan

Hi, All! I am the new Scholarly Writing Specialist for the Office for Professional Writing, Publishing, and Communication. Prior to this role, I was teaching writing courses at Jefferson's East Falls campus and at many colleges around the Greater Philadelphia Area. I received my MFA in nonfiction from Bennington College (just a few weeks ago), and both my Master's and Bachelor's degrees in English from Temple University. I'm looking forward to reading and editing any work you send my way.

Upcoming Workshops

Writing Strategies to Get People to Listen and Understand

Instructor: Liz Declan, MA, MFA

Date: 3/30/2022

Time: 12:00pm - 1:00pm

Location: VIRTUAL - Register to receive link

[\(Register for this workshop\)](#)

Have you ever been told that your writing is hard to understand? That your sentences are wordy? That your verbs are passive? Writing problems often have less to do with content than composition. This session will review simple writing concepts you can use to make your sentences clearer, livelier, and more concise.

At the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Identify common mistakes that make sentences confusing or convoluted.
- Explain useful strategies for writing better sentences.
- Apply these strategies to improve their writing.

The Elevator Pitch

Instructor: Pamela Walter, MFA

Date: 4/13/2022

Time: 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Location: VIRTUAL - Register to receive link

[\(Register for this workshop\)](#)

What would you say if you had a minute or two to make your case with a decisionmaker? What kinds of words might make a difference in getting through to them? In this workshop, we'll analyze the pitch and practice making one using a simple method and key words.

At the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Determine the needs of the audience
- Organize ideas using a simple structure
- Summarize key points using audience appeal language
- Role play delivering the elevator pitch

Quick Tip: When to Use Semicolons

Semicolons stress people out, but the rules are quite simple once you learn them! Here are the two ways you can use semicolons (if you try to use them another way... well, you probably shouldn't):

1. To connect two independent clauses (two complete sentences):
 1. Replace a period with a semicolon. Example: Rather than saying, "*It was raining. We went inside.*" you can say "*It was raining; we went inside.*" Why? This change can show a stronger correlation between two sentences or ideas.
 2. Replace a comma and a coordinating conjunction with a semicolon. Example: Rather than saying, "*It was dark in there, and I couldn't see a thing.*" you can say "*It was dark in there; I couldn't see a thing.*" Why? It cuts word count!
 3. Connect complete sentences with a semicolon and a conjunctive adverb. Example: "*I didn't love the movie; however, I would see it again.*" Why? It shows a relationship between two ideas; also, it looks sharp.

2. To separate items in a series that already have commas (essentially, lists that would have *way* too many commas)
 1. Example: I went to dinner with Katherine, my older sister; John, my older brother; and Bean, my younger sister. (Can you imagine if all of these were commas?)



As always, please contact us if you need editing or feedback on a manuscript, presentation, or poster.

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