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A Word from the Writing Center (March 2022)

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A Word from the Writing Team: March 2022

Quick Tip—Inclusivity and Awareness in Writing:

Increasingly, scholarly publications (and many other communications) employ inclusive, respectful language. As a general rule, always check the journal you are targeting for author guidelines since these will state their expectations. If they do not, though, here are some reliable industry standards:

People First or Person First Language (PFL): The *People First Respectful Language Modernization Act of 2006* ushered in a new era of addressing people first rather than their condition or disability. PFL is generally the expectation for scholarship. Examples of this include “children with autism” rather than “autistic children,” “patients with prostate cancer” instead of “prostate-cancer patients,” etc.

Race and Ethnicity: Follow the lead on how an individual identifies racially and/or what terms they use for themselves, but for publication, always check the guidelines. As an example, journals may ask authors to use the terms Black or African American, White or Caucasian; text and tables would then reflect that language unless the guidelines specify otherwise. Obvious exceptions would be how a particular participant may self-identify in a study, organization names, database demographics, etc.

Gender: Regarding gender, the use of “he” to mean a gender-ambiguous individual is outdated. Be as specific as possible regarding gender and your intent as author. Increasingly, the use of “they” as a singular pronoun has become more prominent, but it is not yet industry standard; you may see “they” used as a pronoun for non-binary individuals in a study, etc.

Upcoming Workshop Reminders:

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.

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.

News from the Academic Commons:

Kelsey Duinkerken, formerly in charge of the Jefferson Digital Commons, left the Academic Commons to pursue a new role. That position has been posted on Jefferson's career site: [TJU Digital Archivist](#). Meanwhile, if you need to deposit research in the JDC, please contact our Scholarly Publications Librarian, Larissa Gordon, at larissa.gordon@jefferson.edu.

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

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