

A Word From The Writing Center (June 2017)

WRITING TIP

GRAMMAR: If you are confused about the purpose of semicolons and colons, you're not alone. They provide a good excuse to revisit *The Elements of Style* (Scott Memorial Library, 4th Floor, PE 1408 S927e 2005). Here is how Strunk and White explain semicolons and colons:

- Use a **semicolon** to join related clauses that are “grammatically complete and not joined by a conjunction” such as *and* or *or*. You could use a period instead, but a semicolon indicates a close relationship between the two clauses in a way that a period does not.
- A **colon** can also be used to joint two grammatically complete clauses, but only specifically when the second clause “interprets or amplifies the first.”

A colon can serve other purposes, too. In particular, it can precede a list (*A chef needs three ingredients to make an omelette: butter, eggs, and salt.*), and, as we often see in scholarly writing, it can separate a title from a subtitle (*Fly Fishing: An Introduction to Technique*).

PREPARING POSTERS

Is a poster presentation in your future? Posters should be designed so that viewers can easily read, understand, and remember your research. Find guidance on poster design and templates here: <http://www.jefferson.edu/university/teaching-learning/graphics-medical-illustration.html>. If you'd like the CTL's Graphics and Medical Illustration group to design your poster for you, call (3-7841) or email (graphics.mms@jefferson.edu) for information on cost and turnaround time.

WRITING CAFÉ

Writing Café is closed for the summer. If you're looking for a space to write without the distractions of your office, don't forget Scott Library. If you haven't visited in a while, you'll find new seating and desk options. The library is open 24/7, and floors 3 and 4 are specifically designated as quiet floors.

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>