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## A Word from the Writing Center (July 2017)

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### WRITING TIP

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**GRAMMAR:** Few words confuse writers more than **affect** and **effect**. Here's a simple way to keep them straight, at least most of the time:

- **AFFECT is almost always a VERB.** It means *to influence*. Example. The weather *affects* attendance at an outdoor concert.
- **EFFECT is almost always a NOUN.** It means *a result*. Example: The *effect* of too much sun can be a sunburn.
- So to decide which one to use, simply determine whether you need a verb (affect) or noun (effect).
- This rule of thumb works almost all the time, but there are exceptions: **Affect** can be used as a noun (meaning *an emotional state or pretentious behavior*) and **effect** can be used as a verb (meaning *to bring about*), however use of the words in these ways is far, far less common.

### OPPORTUNITY: WRITING WORKSHOP FOR SCIENTISTS

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Interested in developing your ability to communicate why science matters? [Apply](#) for the inaugural online workshop being offered this fall and spring by *Scientific American* and the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science at Stony Brook University. The workshop will help scientists write blogs and op-eds for magazines, newspapers, and other news outlets. Participants for the free program are selected competitively.

### WRITING CAFÉ

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**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](mailto:jennifer.wilson@jefferson.edu).
- Visit the **Writing Center** on the web: <http://www.jefferson.edu/university/teaching-learning/writing-center.html>