

Science Writing Workshop

Communicating With Humans Outside Your Discipline

One of the most important--and most challenging--aspects of working as a scientist is communicating your work to those outside your specific discipline. By focusing primarily on writing for the widest audience possible, the general public, this workshop will help participants to communicate more effectively in all contexts. Writing projects will be assigned prior to each meeting, and most of the workshop time will be devoted to reading, editing, and discussing the resulting pieces. In addition, we will explore a few different genres of popular science writing, read and analyze classic writing in each genre, and talk about generally applicable strategies for communicating clearly and concisely.

► When, Where, and How Often?

- Fall 2019, somewhere around Harvard Sq. (exact location TBD). There will be one two-hour evening workshop every two weeks, and there will be four sessions in total. The exact scheduling will be chosen collectively by workshop participants.

► Who Is This For?

- Graduate students, postdocs, and other trainees in scientific or technical disciplines. To allow thorough discussion of each participant's work, spaces in the workshop will be limited to 10.

► Is It Free?

- Yes.

► How Much Work Will It Be?

- Workshop participants should expect to write around 1000 words every two weeks, and complete the assigned readings in advance of each session. Writing assignments will include personal essays, explainer pieces, and opinion articles. Our final piece of writing will be in the style of a "Bites" post — a 600-700 word summary of a published paper in your discipline, written at a "semi-technical" level appropriate for advanced high-school students or first-year undergraduates. Many of these pieces will be suitable for publication on the relevant bites site (softbites.org/our-friends).

► Workshop Leader: Colm P Kelleher

- Colm is a postdoc in biophysics at Harvard, where he uses microscopy to study the mechanics of cell division. Colm has blogged for *Scientific American* and *Nautilus* magazines, written and voiced several short online videos for *TED-Ed*, and recently published a coloring book based on his PhD research. He is currently a writer and managing editor for softbites.org.

► How Do I Sign Up?

- Email colm.p.kelleher@gmail.com by September 25th 2019 with your name and affiliation. Spaces in the class are extremely limited, so don't sign up unless you plan to attend all the workshop sessions and spend 2-3 hours on homework prior to each one.