

Why Writing Matters to Medicine and Life Sciences

You may not realize it, but writing matters a lot to biologists and pre-med and pre-dental professionals. The following links lead to organizations in the sciences that make good writing their first priority. Check them out, and see why writing matters.

<http://www.councilscienceeditors.org>

The Council of Science Editors dictate the style and format of writing for major scientific journals, lab reports, and proposals in the biological sciences. Think consistent style, explanations, and clarity aren't important? Suppose a study needs to be replicated at some point in the future, but the directions and resources aren't clearly explained? It would be pretty difficult to repeat the experiment!

<http://www.amwa.org>

What CSE does for biology, the American Medical Writer's Association does for doctors and nurses, medical research facilities, and medical journals. Having a standard in writing is important, so that everyone has the same definitions and expectations in writing, and so that the work is easy to read. Medical Writing is a career in and of itself, and experienced medical writers are well paid.

<http://www.ahdionline.org>

The Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity is a primary resource for those members of the medical community who transcribe and record medical diagnoses, prescriptions, and billing. Writing matters here because not only are lives at stake, but so are the bills!

<http://www.cdc.gov>

The Centers for Disease Control is the government's health care research center, and one of the top providers of information in the world. All information here must be clear and formatted according to professional standards in order to be distributed.

<http://www.nsf.gov>

Are you looking for money to fund your medical and scientific research? The National Science Foundation has a lot to give, but only if you can write your proposal clearly, correctly, and according to their guidelines. Once again, there's a direct relationship between clear and accurate writing and funding.