YOU KEEP USING THAT WORD: SIMPLE, DIRECT LANGUAGE FOR EFFECTIVE ACADEMIC WRITING

Featuring Dr. Adrian Koesters
Research Editor and Vice Chancellor for Research Editorial Office
University of Nebraska Medical Center

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ABSTRACT
In this presentation, we will look at how simpler language choices affect our writing, benefit our readers, and advance our scholarship, all without sacrificing the values inherent in academic writing (namely, complexity, abstraction, and appeal to colleagues). Brief exercises will demonstrate tendencies in your own automatic word choices. We will also look at how diction and syntax affect the context, audience aim, and intention or purpose of your work, as well as suggest immediate, practical solutions for getting started and following through to the final draft.

ABOUT DR. KOESTERS
Adrian Koesters is a native of Baltimore, Maryland. She attended high school in Bellingham, Washington, and has lived most of her life in Nebraska, where she has worked in Omaha and Lincoln as a high school teacher, secretary, sign language interpreter, academic advisor, editorial specialist, and university professor. She holds an MFA in poetry from the Rainier Writing Workshop at Pacific Lutheran University, and a Ph.D. in English (fiction and poetry writing) from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she was an assistant editor in Poetry for Prairie Schooner magazine and an assistant editor for Ted Kooser’s syndicated newspaper column, “American Life in Poetry.” She has taught creative writing at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Creighton University, and currently works as a research editorial specialist at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

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