Science communication is an increasingly vital skill as public misconceptions about the goals and outcomes of research abound. However, few scientists are trained to write and communicate with audiences outside of their immediate field. NeuwriteSD, founded in 2013, is an organization run entirely by UC San Diego graduate students with the goals of: a) writing, editing, and publishing weekly blog-style posts on neuroscience-related topics that are accessible to a general audience; b) providing training in effective science communication; and c) offering resources and support for individuals seeking a career in science writing and communication.

In addition to reaching thousands of readers across the world with its weekly posts, NeuwriteSD also affects its local community through a bi-annual print edition, collaborations with other outreach organizations, and regular workshops. On an individual level, NeuwriteSD members have gone on to have successful careers both inside and outside of academia, with the majority citing NeuwriteSD as having helped them develop skills essential for their current job.

NeuwriteSD could serve as a model for other graduate programs and institutions to both increase public understanding of neuroscience and train scientists in effective and compelling scientific communication.

The weekly articles published on neuwritesd.org are intended to break down a neuroscience topic of broad interest into engaging and accessible language.

The median number of views per post has remained relatively stable since 2013, but each year there are certain posts that get thousands of views. The publication of the NeuWrite Times print edition allows us to be able to distribute physical copies of some of our favorite articles at local outreach events, conferences, and other venues.


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