

## LOOKING AT YOURSELF AS A WRITER

### *Pronoun-antecedent agreement*

Like all writers, at times you will find yourself wrestling with the problem of pronoun-antecedent agreement. Here is why the problem is so pervasive.

**CAUSE** You hear faulty pronoun-antecedent agreement in speech all the time, and you probably don't see much wrong with it, since it rarely interferes with clarity.

**CURE** Be aware that standards in writing tend to be stricter than those in speech.

**CAUSE** You don't want to use sexist English, and you find *he or she* awkward—so you resort to using plural pronouns such as *their* with singular antecedents such as *swimmer*.

**CURE** Choose plural antecedents or find a clever way around the problem. Section W4-e shows several possibilities.