Commas

The comma was invented to help readers. Without it, sentence parts can collide into one another unexpectedly causing mis-readings. The use of commas can dictate the success or failure of your delivery. Use the following list of common comma uses for reference while writing!

Use commas:

- **Before “FANBOYS” (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so) that join two complete sentences:**
  - The Writing Center helps students become better writers, and we enjoy what we do!
- **After an introductory clause or phrase:**
  - When students prepare for a Writing Center appointment, they usually collect any material they want to share with their tutor.
- **To set off transitional phrases (these are kind of like introductory clauses):**
  - The Writing Center is a peer-tutoring organization; therefore, we provide a comfortable environment for students.
- **Between all items in a list:**
  - We can help you understand an assignment, brainstorm, with thesis statements, and much more!
- **Between adjectives not joined with “and”:**
  - You will find kind, helpful tutors in the Writing Center.
- **To set off nonessential elements in a sentence (if you can read the sentence without it, then put commas around it):**
  - The Writing Center, located in 264 Bancroft, is a peer-tutoring organization.
  - Tutors are required to take a class and intern in the Writing Center, which can be a bit intimidating at first.
  - One of the Graduate Assistants in the Writing Center, Josh, really enjoys helping other students with creative writing.
- **With expressions like “he/she/they said”:**
  - She said, “I always feel better after a Writing Center appointment!”
  - My HMXP professors said, “I will give you extra credit if you go to the Writing Center.”
- **When you have a conditional or “If then” phrase:**
  - If you come to the Writing Center, then you’ll learn skills to become a better writer!