**Run-Ons and Comma Splices**

**A run-on sentence** istwo complete sentences (also called independent clauses) that are joined together, but **lacking the** **necessary** addition of one of the following:

* proper punctuation (a period or a semi-colon)
* a connecting word.

**Incorrect:**

I need to finish my paper I am going to the Writing Center.

(Complete sentence) (Complete sentence)

**Possible ways to correct a run-on**:

1. The two sentences are **separated by a period**.

I need to finish my paper**.** I am going to the Writing Center.

1. The two closely-related sentences are **connected by a semi-colon**.

I need to finish my paper**;** I am going to the Writing Center.

1. The two sentences are **joined by a connecting word** (conjunctions or transition words).

**With some connecting words, add a comma. With others, add a semi-colon.**

Add a **comma** with conjunctions: **F**or, **A**nd, **N**or, **B**ut, **O**r, **Y**et, **S**o (memory cue—**FAN BOYS**)

I need to finish my paper, **and** I am going to the Writing Center.

I need to finish my paper, **so** I am going to the Writing Center.

Add a **semi-colon** with transition words: however, therefore, moreover, consequently, etc.

I need to finish my paper; **therefore**, I am going to the Writing Center.

A **comma splice** occurs when two complete sentences are incorrectly connected with a comma only. The

corrections are the same as those for a run-on sentence:

**Incorrect:**

I find punctuation to be confusing, this explanation helps.

(Complete sentence) (Complete sentence)

**Possible ways to correct a comma splice**:

1. The two sentences are **separated by a period**.

I find punctuation to be confusing**.** This explanation helps.

1. The two closely-related sentences are **connected by a semi-colon**.

I find punctuation to be confusing**;** this explanation helps.

1. The two sentences are **joined by a connecting word**, following a comma.

I find punctuation to be confusing, **but** this explanation helps.