

comma Splicing

- using a comma where you should use a semi-colon.
- common source of a comma splice is the word "however," e.g. Oscar thought he was wrong, however he was unsure.
- However is confusing, sometimes doesn't start a new sentence.
- When you put your thumb over "however" and the clause on each side can stand alone, put a semi-colon in front of "however" and a comma after.

Semi-colon separates two ALIKE clauses.

comma separates two UNALIKE clauses.

creating a Thesis

Possible approaches:

- choose aspect of text you could research and contextualise.
- choose a keyword from a text, look it up in OED and use keyword search to trace it in text.
- Find another text from the same author/that is contemporary, or somehow comparable in form or subject matter: compare/contrast questions.
- Find key critical response to the text to evaluate, or compare two competing responses.

Playing the Why Game

1. Think of something that interested you about the text/s.
2. Ask "why is this interesting?" then; "why might it matter in the text more largely?"
3. Keep asking: "Why does THAT matter?"

IMPORTANT: Sometimes a topic is interesting, but it doesn't matter.

Thesis examples that don't make for strong arguments

- Analysis in which the author points out how a text doesn't measure up to contemporary political standards/beliefs/ideals. No point in calling out the past.
- Analysis of the subject that the author loves, but doesn't have larger significance.
- Analysis that spend more time talking about the sound of words w/o paying much attention to their meaning.
- Analysis that do a political reading w/o making anything of that reading e.g. just saying "I will do a Libertarian reading of this text".

LECTURE FOUR: MLA CITATIONS

order

Author - can be more than one, there may not be an author (just move on). "Surname, First name," if two then: "Surname, First name, First name Surname." If 3 or more = "Surname, First name et al."

Title of Source - Book length work is italicised, essay within larger book in quotation marks. Episode title also in quotation marks.

Title of container - Means a thing that contains another thing. Poem = title of collection, essay = title of book, article = title of journal.

Other contributors - often not mentioned. Adapted by, edited by etc.

Version - E.g. Director's cut, 4th ed.

Number - commonly used for journals, most do not have numbers.

Publisher - MLA doesn't like uni. or Press, usually will have e.g. Warner Bros for a film studio.

Publication Date - Twitter = day, books = publication date, journals - volume, number AND date.

Location - Page span (pp.), URL for shows/movies. Assisting reader.

It is the welcome to your reader, do not put thesis in the first sentence of introduction (OR SECOND).

- Invite them, make them comfortable, THEN insert thesis.

First sentence is the best chance to grab your readers attention. You should avoid:

- "In this modern world."
- "In the --- period/era/time."
- "The dictionary defines that ---."
- Any cast generalisation, do not go crazy.

Theses

What is a thesis?

- An arguable assertion.

"I think," is not a thesis, it's an opinion

Should appear in first paragraph.

- Be in last sentence and clear that it is the thesis.

can signpost, "this essay will argue."

- can also chose to provide a sentence after the thesis enumerating the points of your essay.

Method vs. Methodology

- Methodology = a system of method used in a particular area of study or activity.
- Method = a single method/approach.

Introduction middles