



ELA Virtual Learning

# **Composition and Reading 2: Critical Analysis First Draft (3 of 4)**

May 18, 2020



## Composition and Reading II

### Lesson: May 18, 2020

#### **Objective/Learning Target:**

Students will apply critical analysis and writing skills to draft an analysis of a chosen short story.

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Answer the following questions in your notebook.

Starting Question(s):

1. What does the word “succinct” mean to you? How does it apply to your writing?
2. When is it appropriate to combine multiple ideas within the same sentence? When is it inappropriate?
3. How does one avoid run-on sentences?

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#### **Learn:**

In academic writing, you are more likely to use compound sentences than simple sentences. A compound sentence is one that contains multiple ideas. For example, if you are quoting a source and then explaining how the ideas within that source support your claim, you are probably going to use a compound sentence. I just used one in the previous sentence! This is all well and good, and you are not prohibited from using these types of sentence. But we do need to be mindful of how they are punctuated, and if you are actually conveying multiple ideas.



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#### Learn:

When a compound sentence is not punctuated correctly, it becomes a run-on sentence. There are two types of run-on sentences that we will cover: a **fused sentence** and a **comma splice**. Let's do some examples of each so that we can avoid them in our own writing!

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### Learn:

#### Fused Sentences:

- A fused sentence has at least two parts, either one of which can stand by itself (in other words, two independent clauses), but the two parts have been smooshed together instead of being properly connected.
  - **Example:** Margaret Atwood is best known for her novels her essays and poems are also worth reading.
  - **Example:** I didn't want an apple I had a banana instead.
  - **Example:** It's cold outside you will need a jacket.

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### Learn:

#### Comma Splices:

- When two independent clauses are connected by only a comma, they constitute a run-on sentence that is called a **comma-splice**.
  - **Example:** Television can be entertaining, it can also be boring.
  - **Example:** Oil imports are very expensive, we must learn to be economical in our use of energy.
  - **Example:** College freshmen need help in making the transition from high school, the sheer size of most colleges can be a problem to new students.

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### Learn:

So how do we fix these? There are four ways that we can fix run-on sentences, and these solutions apply to fixing both comma splices and fused sentences.

1. Separate the two independent clauses into two sentences.
  - a. **Incorrect:** Margaret Atwood is best known for her novels her essays and poems are also worth reading.
  - b. **Correct:** Margaret Atwood is best known for her novels. Her essays and poems are also worth reading.



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2. Connect the two independent clauses with a semicolon if they express closely related ideas.
  - a. **Incorrect:** Ellen had her hands full taking care of Stephen, he was at the age where he was full of mischief.
  - b. **Correct:** Ellen had her hands full taking care of Stephen; he was at the age where he was full of mischief.

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### Learn:

3. Connect the two independent clauses with a comma and a coordinating conjunction (For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So— the first letters of which create the word FANBOYS).
  - a. **Incorrect:** Television can be entertaining, it can also be boring.
  - b. **Correct:** Television can be entertaining, but it can also be boring.

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### Learn:

4. Make one of the clauses dependent on the other independent clause by adding a subordinating word (such as: since, when, after, while, because, although, etc.) to it.  
Note: Dependent clauses are sometimes called subordinate clauses.
  - a. **Incorrect:** Oil imports are very expensive, we must learn to be economical in our use of energy.
  - b. **Correct:** Because oil imports are very expensive, we must learn to be economical in our use of energy.



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#### Practice:

**Please continue to work on your paper.** Be mindful of your writing, and double-check to see if your writing is free of run-on sentences. [Here](#) is another resource to help you with fixing run-on sentences.



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### **Wrap-Up:**

By fixing run-on sentences, we make our writing more succinct. Our ideas should not be muddled by faulty wording, and I want to ensure that what you are trying to convey gets understood by your reader. We're trying to be as clear as possible, and proper formatting is how it's done!