

## Semicolon Usage

### When should I use a semicolon?

1. To connect two independent clauses when no coordinating conjunction (*and, but, or, etc.*) is present

Example: *Facebook has recently been criticized for allowing personal user information to become available to online advertising companies; nevertheless, the site's popularity has soared in recent months.*

2. To connect items in a series when the items themselves contain commas

Example: *Facebook should be defended against public scrutiny because it holds massive potential for uniting people of any age, race, or culture in one easy-to-manage interface; it offers psychological benefits such as improved self-esteem in college students because of a shared feeling of "connectedness"; and it positively affects the real-world relationships between people by providing a unique way to connect and communicate with the rest of the human race.*

### When should I NOT use a semicolon?

To connect a dependent clause to an independent clause



### Work Consulted

Aaron, Jane E. *The Little, Brown Essential Handbook*. 7th ed. Boston: Longman, 2011. Print.