Commas

**Problem:** Comma misuse is a common writing error. An over abundance of commas can lead to choppy, fragmented writing. However, omitted commas can cause information to run together and become confusing.

**Solution:** There are four main comma rules. You should use commas to separate:

1) Three or more items in a list
   Example: A candle, a coffee can, a potato, a wild onion and lots of patience were the only ingredients required to make a hobo potato.

2) An introductory phrase or after thought
   Example: After a long day, Samantha went home and did her homework.
   Example: My memory flashed back to Andrew, waving to me from the train.

3) Non-essential information (in the body of the sentence)
   Example: Jessica, one of my seven roommates, banged on the door.
   Example: I don’t know, John, if we have enough room for you.

4) Complete sentences that are combined with a coordinating conjunction
   Example: The road was as empty as a pond in winter, and the sun was just starting to poke its head over the horizon.