Run-On Sentences

**Problem:** Run-on sentences can cause your prose to feel sloppy or unclear. A run-on occurs when two or more independent clauses are not joined correctly. An independent clause is a group of words that includes both a subject and a verb and *could* stand alone as its own sentence.

Examples of Run-on Sentences:

**Fused sentence:** *My roommate read my paper she said it was great.*

**Comma splice:** *My boyfriend scowled, I knew he was angry about something.*

**Solution:** Revise a run-on sentence in one of four ways.

1) Place a comma before coordinating conjunction (and, but, yet, so, or, nor, for) to join the two clauses:
   
   Run-on: *My boyfriend scowled so I knew he was angry about something.*
   
   Correction: *My boyfriend scowled, so I knew he was angry about something.*

2) Use a semicolon (alone, or with a transitional word):

   Run-on: *My roommate read my paper she said it was great.*
   
   Correction: *My roommate read my paper; however, she said it needed some work.*

3) Separate the run-on into two sentences:

   Run-on: *My roommate read my paper she said it was good.*
   
   Correction: *My roommate read my paper. She said it was good, although it still needs some work.*

4) Restructure the sentence by subordinating one clause to the other (i.e., converting it into a clause that cannot stand on its own as a sentence):

   Run-on: *The cow is an unusual animal, it has four stomachs.*
   
   Correction: *Because it has four stomachs, the cow strikes us as an unusual animal.*