The semi-colon consists of a comma and a period ; . Therefore, the semi-colon indicates a full stop and, at the same time, a connection to what follows. The semi-colon connects elements that have equal grammatical status.

A semi-colon signals the end of an independent clause (a clause that stands on its own) and links it to what follows. The semi-colon indicates the writer will add to or support his or her statement by linking it to what follows.

**Use a semi-colon**

- to link items in a series or phrases in a series, especially if the phrases contain internal punctuation, such as a comma.
  
  **e.g.**, Maria made a peanut butter sandwich; packed it in her lunchbox; and ate it later at school during her lunchtime, which was at noon.

- to connect related independent clauses that are not joined by a conjunction (**and, but, or**, **nor, yet, so, for**). If the clauses are not closely related, use a period and make two sentences.
  
  **e.g.**, The BBCC is a valuable resource for the College of Business; the coaches there help students with writing, presentations, and resumes.

- to link two independent clauses when a transitional expression or a conjunctive adverb (**for example; in fact; on the contrary; in addition; however; therefore;** etc.) introduces the second clause.
  
  **e.g.**, The BBCC in the College of Business offers valuable services; for example, it helps students with brainstorming, organizing ideas, and writing strong papers.

**Do not use a semi-colon**

- to introduce a list of items.
  
  **e.g.**, The ingredients for the soup included; tomatoes, celery, carrots, and zucchini. <Incorrect
  The ingredients for the soup included tomatoes, celery, carrots, and zucchini. <Correct

- to link a dependent clause (a clause that cannot stand on its own) and its main clause.
  
  **e.g.**, No one ate the rich dessert; even though it looked delicious. <Incorrect
  No one ate the rich dessert, even though it looked delicious. <Correct