**The Comma**

1. Use to separate items in a list.
   1. Example: I have to remember to pick up milk, eggs, shampoo, and deodorant.
      1. Note: The last comma (before the “and”) is optional.
2. Use between adjectives.
   1. Example: The quick, furious wind gusts almost lifted me off the ground.
   2. Example: The television shows sharp, crisp images.
3. Use before coordinating conjunctions **if a pronoun follows**.
   1. Example: Helga went to the park, **and she** enjoyed the swings.
   2. Example: Helga went to the park and enjoyed the swings.
4. Use after an “introductory phrase” that shows **when**, **where**, **why**, or **how**.
   1. Example: In the summer of 2011, I decided to join the chess team.
   2. Example: In order to win, we’ll have to practice hard and stay focused.
5. Use to separate an appositive from the rest of the sentence.
   1. Example: Mr. Seery, the teacher across the hall, is quite knowledgeable.
   2. Example: Broccoli, a green vegetable, is delicious when served with melted cheese.

**NOTE**: This is where you *could* use a **DASH**…

Broccoli – a green vegetable – is delicious when served with melted cheese.

1. Use to separate an adjective phrase.
   1. Annoyed by the noise coming from the adjacent classroom, Mrs. Thalen screamed at Mr. Markowitz.
      1. Note: What follows the comma MUST be the noun described by the adjective phrase.
2. City, State
   1. Mount Sinai, New York
3. Full Dates
   1. June 24, 2015