

Semi-Colon or Colon: Which One and When?



Semi-colons

Join 2 independent clauses while using a transitional word

Immersion trips are powerful experiences; hence, students often return with new global awareness.

Join 2 independent clauses

Immersion trips are powerful experiences; students often return with new global awareness.

Separate items in a list when those are long or have commas

Last year, students went on immersion trips to New Orleans, Louisiana; Puebla, Mexico; Yuba City, Arizona; and Mumbai, India.

Colons

Introduce a list after an independent clause

SCU's undergraduate Core is clustered within three areas: Foundations, Explorations, and Integrations.

Introduce a quote or example after an independent clause

SCU's motto highlights the University's location and mission: "The Jesuit university of the Silicon Valley."

Emphasize a point or example at the end of a sentence

Seniors often realize in spring that they have one requirement remaining before they can graduate: the Pathway Essay.

Join 2 independent clauses when the second emphasizes or explains the first

Writing is essential: it is the most important skill to practice.

Join together main and subordinate titles

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