



Let's talk about commas....and what NOT to do!

A-State Online Writing Center

We all battle with commas, regardless of the assignment or discipline. Whether there are too many added commas or not enough, countless writers forget the specific rules for using them. Let's go over what this looks like in academic writing. Below you will find examples of when you shouldn't use commas.

- Don't use commas to separate compound verbs.
 - **Correct example: He completed his research and analyzed each text.**
 - **Incorrect example: He completed his research, and analyzed each text.**
 - These are not two independent clauses and, therefore, not a compound sentence.

- Don't use commas to isolate necessary information.
 - **Correct example: Poetry that Maya Angelou wrote has been essential in English classrooms all around the US.**
 - **Incorrect example: Poetry, that Maya Angelou wrote, has been essential in English classrooms all around the US.**
 - If you take out the information isolated in the commas, the sentence would be too vague to make your point accurately.

- Don't use commas between a subject and a verb.
 - **Correct example: Studying hard makes exams easier.**
 - **Incorrect example: Studying hard, makes exams easier.**