; (THE SEMICOLON)

No. 17 in the Writing Center Handout Series

A semicolon looks different than its relative the colon in that the bottom half of the semicolon is a comma.

Semicolons can be used in two ways:

1. **To join together two related statements of equal weight and importance into one sentence.**

   Example:

   It is important to proofread your work before turning it in; typos and other mistakes

- The purpose of the semicolon in this case is to prevent the choppiness of separating two ideas that are closely related and to ask the reader to make a connection between the two statements. The semicolon also shows a progression from the first statement to the second