Writing Skills in Action 3: Commas

Writing Skills in Action is designed to put into practice specific writing traits, i.e., grammar, punctuation, usage, introduction, conclusion, etc., to develop your understanding of how to write more effectively.

Prompts may be creative fiction or analytical responses – determine the type of prompt and the audience then write accordingly.

Directions

**Write a half-page response** to the prompt below. While you write your response, include sentences that fit the grammar and punctuation rules below, and any other specific requirements for this task.

You need to identify each rule/requirement by using the “Comment” tool (under the “Review” tab) in Word.

Example: *He said, “Treat her as you would your own daughter.”*

3 Prompts:

1. Begin a story with “There was once a chance I didn’t take…”
2. The term “ultracrepidarianism,” or the habit of giving opinions and advice on issues outside one’s scope of knowledge, comes from a comment made by Greek artist Apelles to a shoemaker who criticized one of the artist’s paintings. The phrase “*Sutor, ne ultra crepidam*,” essentially means that the shoemaker should not judge beyond his own soles. **Write a piece on the value of voicing opinions regardless of your expertise on the subject matter**
3. Watch this Tedtalk -- <https://www.ted.com/talks/ismael_nazario_what_i_learned_as_a_kid_in_jail>, then discuss how you would reform the juvenile detention system

The rules below are taken directly from the grammar and punctuation skills unit. You must write a sentence for each rule listed below. Each sentence must be grammatically and punctually correct. Label each sentence using the “Comment” feature in Word (click the review tab) to indicate which rule is applied in the sentence.

1. Comma Rule 2: *Use a comma to separate two adjectives when the word and can be inserted between them.* 
   * *Examples: He is a strong, healthy man.*
   * *We stayed at an expensive summer resort.* You would not say expensive and summer resort, so no comma.
2. Comma Rule 7: *Use commas to set off expressions interrupting sentence flow.*
   * *Example: I am, as you have probably noticed, very nervous about this.*
3. Comma Rule 11:   
   ***a.*** *Use a comma to separate two strong clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction – and, or, but, for, nor. You can omit the comma if the clauses are both short.* 
   * ***Examples:*** *I have painted the entire house, but he is still working on sanding the doors.*
   * *I paint and he writes.*

***b.*** *Use a comma to separate two sentences if it will help avoid confusion.*

* ***Example:*** *I chose the colors red and green, and blue was his first choice.*

1. Comma Rule 13: If the subject does not appear in front of the second verb in a compound sentence, do not use a comma.
   * *Example: He thought quickly but still did not answer correctly.*
2. Comma Rule 14: *Use a comma to introduce or interrupt direct quotations shorter than three lines.*
   * *Example: He actually said, “I do not care.”*
   * *Example: “Why,” I asked, “do you always forget to do it?”*