**Style Lesson #1a:**

**Semicolons separate items in a series**

"Volleyball games resume on the sand flat; someone fires up the sauna; in the long dusk, at eleven o'clock, half a dozen beach fires people the shore" (Dillard 84).

Text source: Harper’s Magazine, "Mirages"

**Instructions: Use semicolons to separate a series of items if the items are long, or if they contain commas. Semicolons help you connect closely related ideas when a style mark stronger than a comma is needed. By using semicolons effectively, you can make your writing sound more sophisticated.**

For example:

The following crewmembers were on the bridge: James T. Kirk, captain of the Enterprise; Mr. Spock, first science officer; Mr. Sulu, helmsman; Mr. Scott, engineer; and Dr. McCoy, chief medical officer.

There are basically two ways to write: with a pen or pencil, which is inexpensive and easily accessible**;** or by computer and printer, which is more expensive but quick and neat.

When you think about how an orchestra is organized, notice the strings, the violin, the viola, and the cello; the woodwinds, the clarinet and the oboe; and the horns, the trombone, the French horn, and the trumpet

**Practice:** Revise the following sentences by adding semi-colons where necessary.

1. The meal consisted of the following: a garden salad with Italian dressing, a baked potato with sour cream and chives, New York strip steak, cooked to perfection, steamed carrots, broccoli, and cauliflower, and blueberry cheesecake for dessert.
2. This week's book winners are Herbie in Milligan College, Tennessee, Matt in Irvine, California, and Jan in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

**Assessment: For your first source journal, you must include a sentence with a semicolon separating items in a series.**