

# CONVENTIONS EDITING

In order to improve your ability to put commas, semi-colons, and colons where they belong, we are going to underline every single **INDEPENDENT CLAUSE** in our essay. Commas go before or after, or in the middle of, independent clauses.

**STEP 1:** Make a **COPY** of your essay in your Google doc. Name it, "Epiphany Essay"

**STEP 2:** UNDERLINE OR HIGHLIGHT EVERY INDEPENDENT CLAUSE (a complete thought—a sentence. It has a subject + a verb). If you are not sure, read it aloud and listen to hear if it is a complete thought.

**STEP 3:** Label the Sentence Pattern right after the sentence. **Make it another color.**

## DO WHAT YOU LOVE

I believe that people should take pride in what they do even if it is scorned or misunderstood by the public at large. 7

I have been a professional skateboarder for 24 years. 1 For much of that time, the activity that paid our rent and gave us our greatest joy was tagged with many labels, most of which were ugly. 10,5 It was a kids' fad, a waste of time, a dangerous pursuit, a crime. 5

When I was about 17, 6 three years after I turned pro 5, my high school "careers" teacher scolded me in front of the entire class about jumping ahead in my workbook. He told me that I would never make it in the workplace if I didn't follow directions explicitly. 7 He said I'd never make a living as a skateboarder, so it seemed to him that my future was bleak. 4

Even during those dark years, I never stopped riding my skateboard and never stopped progressing as a skater. 10 There have been many, many times when I've been frustrated because I can't land a maneuver. 7 I've come to realize that the only way to master something is to keep at it — despite the bloody knees, despite the twisted ankles, despite the mocking crowds. 5

[By Tony Hawk](#) (click here to read the rest of his statement)

Also, please take out your first essay (the narrative) and identify which sentence pattern errors you made. The sentence pattern errors are the numbers on the side. Be mindful with this essay to avoid making any of those errors again.