Sentence Patterns
A Quick Reference

Adapted from *The Little, Brown Handbook*, 11th Edition, Contributors Dayne Sherman,
Jayetta Slawson, Natasha Whitton, and Jeff Wiemelt, 2010, 236-239. Prepared by the Southeastern
Writing Center. Last updated July, 2011.

Simple Sentence

| Independent clause | .

Sentences with Semicolons

| Independent clause | ; | independent clause | .

| Independent clause | ; therefore, | independent clause | .
however
nevertheless
consequently
(etc.)

Sentences with Commas

| Independent clause | , For | independent clause | .
And
Nor
But
Or
Yet
So

| Clause, phrase, or word | , | nonessential elements | , | independent clause | .

After | dependent clause | , | independent clause | .
Although
Before
If
Since
When
While

Sentences with Colons

| Independent clause | : | listing of a series | .

| Independent clause | : | explanation or elaboration | .

Sentences with Subordination

| Independent clause | after | independent clause | .
                        although
                        before
                        if
                        since
                        when
                        while

Sentences with Quotes

| Independent clause | : | "Quoted sentence." |

"Quote," | introductory tag | .

| Introductory tag, | "Quote."

"Quote," | introductory tag, | "quote."