

Common Writing Errors

Numbers are from **Kate L. Turabian, A Manual for Writers** (sixth edition) where a fuller descriptions can be found.

2.53 Hyphenate Adjectives

seventeenth-century literature

the eighteenth century

the twenty-first century

middle-class families

middle class

3.66 Independent clauses and conjunctions (and, but, or, nor, for) have commas

Most young Europeans spend their holidays in other European **countries**, and many students take vacation jobs abroad.

3.66 Dependent clauses do not have commas

The agencies should design their own monitoring **networks and** evaluate the data derived from them.

They do not self-righteously condone such societies but attempt to refute them theoretically.

3.68 Comma at the end of a string

We have a choice of copper, **silver**, or gold.

3.84 Semicolon between parts of compound sentence with no conjunction

More than one hundred planned communities are in various stages of completion; many more are on the drawing board.

4.1 Capitalization of Proper Nouns

John and Jane Doe Niagara Falls Fourth of July

Joseph Smith Bishop Oscar Romero Roman Catholic Jewish traditions
Protestants Calvary Baptist Church the Mass Passover

However: We went to **church** on Sunday. Jews worship in **synagogues**.

5.31 Block Quotations within the text

Religion is just “the product of the craving to know whether these imaginary conceptions have realities answering to them in some other world than ours.”¹

(note that period is inside the quote marks and the foot/endnote number is outside of the quote marks.)

5.31 Block Quotations longer than five lines (no quote marks)

And Mill continues,

Belief in God or Gods and in a life after death
becomes the canvas which every mind . . . covers
with such ideal pictures as it can either invent or copy.²

¹ John Stuart Mills, *A Book Which I Do Not Know the Title* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press), 42.

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