

Colons

As you follow along with the videos, use this handout to complete the activities.

Video 1 Model Sentences

“To be a successful inventor you need three things: intelligence, perseverance, and just a little bit of luck.”

— *Holes* by Louis Sachar

- Juan’s family has lived in Texas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma.
- Juan’s family has lived in three states: Texas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma.

- My favorite colors are purple, pink, and lime green.
- I have three favorite colors: purple, pink, and lime green.

— Teacher-created sentences

Video 1 Activity

In the space below, write a sentence using this sentence pattern.

If I were principal, I would change several things about our school: _____,
_____, and _____.

Example: If I were principal, I would change several things about our school: no more homework, a longer lunch period, and a three-day weekend.

Video 2 Model Sentences

Nonparallel: If I were principal, I would change several things about our school: video games, eat during class, and listening to music.

Parallel: If I were principal, I would change several things about our school: playing video games, eating during class, and listening to music.

Video 2 Activity

Look at the sentence you wrote for the Video 1 Activity. Make sure that all of the items you listed after the colon are parallel. If not, revise the sentence now.

Video 3 Model Sentences

"I hear a door squeak and turn to see who it is. I see not a 'who' but a 'what': A dog with a pointed nose stands a few yards away from me."

— *Divergent* by Veronica Roth

"Here's the thing: I'm ridiculously smart, and I'm pretty sure I have a photographic memory."

— *Out of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper

"Janie had fabulous hair: a wild, chaotic mane of red curls glinting gold."

— *The Face on the Milk Carton (Janie Johnson)* by Caroline B. Cooney

Video 3 Activity

In the space below, write a sentence that has a complete sentence after a colon using this pattern:

Here's the thing: I'm _____.

Example: Here's the thing: I'm a really good writer.

In the space below, write a sentence that has a phrase after the colon using this pattern:

My favorite _____ is _____: [describe the item].

Example: My favorite dessert is chocolate cake: three layers of dark chocolate with lots of pecans and gooey caramel icing.