

OAS Skill Module

Choose your own grammatical challenge (aka GramR R Good 4 U)

The ability to write effectively remains a skill ubiquitous to any career. A thorough grammatical understanding will carry you far whether it's a 100 page research paper, NSF grant proposal, Facebook comment, or an email to your professor. Don't be fooled: Microsoft Word's little green underlines can't bail you out all the time. As you write for other classes, think about sentences that halt your writing and cause you to rephrase in order to avoid taboos such as *the semicolon*. Use these observations when approaching this skill module.

If you're a grammatical genius (unlike some of us) pick another skill module to challenge yourself.

The Challenge

1) Select *five* grammatical "questions" or rules that you realize you don't actually understand or know how to use properly. If you expect to use this skill module to your full advantage, you'll pick topics that actually confuse you and not ones that come easily. After hitting up a few internet and text resources, write up an explanation including:

- The grammatical question under examination
- Summarize to the best of your knowledge the rules and exceptions
- Write *three* sample sentences (of your own creation!) that utilize your new knowledge
- At the end of the Skill Module include at least three sources you referenced (cite them in the style of your choice) during your examination. If you just copy and paste things from the web, you will FAIL and no longer be able to receive any credit for this skill module.

2) Now for the *real* challenge: find a grammatical error in some sort of printed publication. This can be any newspaper (from NY Times to Daily Texan) or magazine etc. I will accept web sources as long as it is not from your friend on myspace or facebook. If you get an error from say a blog, it needs to be something with a large audience and again not just something your friend wrote.

- Find the error
- Print it or make a photocopy and attach it
- Explain the source (website, name of magazine, etc)
- Explain what the error is, and then correct it!

Topic ideas to get you started:

- Parentheses verses Brackets
- Colons verses Semicolons: Who does what?
- What's up with the dash, slash, and hyphen? -/-
- Who verses Whom
- Apostrophes on words that already end in 's'
- "Who verses That" or "Which verses That" or both
- Through, threw, and thru
- Biweekly verses semiweekly
- Effect and affect
- Placement of punctuation after parenthesis
- Create your own, but it better be good. If it is something you learned in elementary school (ex: difference between there, they're, and their) your skill module will be **REJECTED**.