

Colon and Semicolon Handout (from Modules 9.3 & 10.3)

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- **Differentiation Consideration:** Consider providing this handout if students need additional support with the use of colons and semicolons.

Common and Proper Uses of the Colon:

- Use a colon when introducing a quotation after an *independent clause*. An *independent clause* contains both a subject and a verb, and can stand alone as a complete sentence.
 - U.N. Peacekeepers just stood by unable to help because countries would not approve a force robust enough to engage in combat: “Belgian peacekeepers ... watched as the carnage unfolded” (Zakaria).
- Use a colon when introducing a list.
 - There are several important countries with military strength that need to support the U.N.: the United States, Britain, France, China, and Russia.

Common and Proper Uses of the Semicolon:

- Use a semicolon to connect two *independent clauses* that are related to one another.
 - This may sound like a compelling argument, but this is not a sufficient reason to abandon R2P; the U.S. and its allies should be held to the same standards as the international community.

Further reference: The Purdue University Online Writing Lab (OWL): <http://owl.english.purdue.edu> (search terms: *semi-colons*, *colons*, *quotation marks*).