Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Colons, Semicolons, and Dashes

**Colons-** Colons are most commonly used in the following ways:

1. Introduce something that follows logically like an effect or consequence.
2. Introduce elements in a list.
3. Introduce a quote.

**Semicolons –** These are used to separate two independent clauses. Both sentences on either side of the semicolon must be able to stand alone.

**Dash –** The one thing you must always remember is a dash is not a hyphen. A dash is used to interrupt a sentence with an attention grabbing phrase, interrupt the elements within a sentence, and to introduce an explanation just as a colon would. It is essentially create a dramatic pause in your sentence. However, be sure the clause prior to the dash is independent and the sentence still makes sense when you add the dash.

Colon, Semicolon, and Dash Practice

My Father’s Garden

    When I was a boy growing up in Delhi, India,

we had a kitchen garden behind our downstairs

apartment. My father was an avid gardener, he still is:

and every Saturday morning he would put on his work

clothes, pick up his hoe and trowel, and would head

out the back door. 3

1. **Choose the best answer for the underlined portion.**
   1. NO CHANGE
   2. gardener—he still is—
   3. gardener, he still is—
   4. gardener and he still is

In 2009, Libbrecht and Arnold’s experiments revealed that triangular snowflakes begin with the same process of chemical bonding and forms a hexagonal shape. The triangular shape is an illusion resulting from one significant addition to the process dust.

1. Choose the best answer for the underlined portion.
   1. NO CHANGE
   2. process is
   3. process:
   4. process;

The resulting snowflake has three long sides and three sides that are so short they are difficult to detect. Although these snowflakes appear to have a triangular shape-- they actually have a hexagonal pattern.

1. Choose the best answer for the underlined portion.
   1. NO CHANGE
   2. shape,
   3. shape;
   4. shape: