THE DASH

**Dashes** are the single most common element in which one will use within any literary work. As a quick summary of dashes, and their uses, one must also take special note that the dash allows a writer to interrupt a sentence's structure; meaning the writer will want to use a dash to **add information**, such as an explanation, an example, even a personal note - extra information for a reader. Likewise; this added information is also very important in the work, because strengthens the author's points of arguments. The following will discuss more upon this subject of dashes, and how it can create a whole new dimension to one's writing.

**When should I use a dash?**

There are three instances when a writer should use a dash:

1) **To set off parenthetical material that one may want to emphasize; or in much simpler terms, one may want to include information that may not be form a complete sentence, yet find that small bit of information important. In that case, writers must use the dash if they want to throw the information in that sentence. It is just a short interruption.**

Correct: My teacher - the read-headed one - likes to make us laugh all the time.
Correct: Her taste in music - from country to rap - exemplifies her eclectic personality.

2) **To set off appositives. Appositives simply are nouns, or noun phrases, which renames a nearby noun. Most often these appositives are set off with a comma (), but dashes are used to emphasize the appositives or to set off appositives which contain internal commas. For example:**

Correct: Joe - a student who is also an athlete, actor, and writing coach - does not have enough time to join the committee.
Correct: Usually, a debate - a regulated discussion of a proposition between two matched sides - should never elevate to a fist or shouting fight.

3) **Use a dash to prepare for a list, a restatement, amplification, or a dramatic shift in tone of thought. For example:**

Correct: My friend became excited when he saw that the wall of the house was covered with all types of preserved insects - ants, beetles, bees, moths, and more.
Correct: After the devotional, the auditorium was filled all types of debris - paper, pencils and pens, and even a pair of socks and shoes.