

**Punctuation Detectives**

*Enduring Understanding*: Our brains are wired to listen, speak, read, and write using manmade organizational structures (ex-punctuation) so that we can communicate meaning to specific audiences for specific purposes so that we can better understand ourselves and our world now and in the future.

*Essential Questions*:

* How can I read, analyze, and interpret text to understand writers’ systems for the craft of punctuation so that I can make my own reading and writing decisions?
* What punctuation uses don’t fit accepted “rules” for grammar? Why? What other questions does this make you wonder?
* What tools, vocabulary, and punctuation processes are needed to create meaning?

**TASK**

*You’ll need*: Colored paper folded into sixths each section labeled (1) commas, (2) colons, (3) dashes, (4) ellipses, (5) semicolons, and (6) parentheses; handout: *Punctuation Detectives.*

**Directions***:*

1. (Individual) View the Punctuation Detectives Power Point. On the colored paper, for each type of punctuation, write down observations, notes, theories, patterns, etc.
2. (partners small groups) On the Punctuation Detectives handout, use the notes on your colored paper to write down a job description in the “Definition” column and an easy-to-remember, catchy name that describes the job in the “Name” column.

***Ensure that the definition explains all of the examples. If a punctuation mark does more than one thing, give it a separate name and definition.***

Note: This assignment, along with *Punctuation Theory*, is required to participate in our class Socratic Seminar.