COLON USE

Purpose: Upon completion of this activity, students will understand the three uses of the colon.

This DLA should take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

1. Go to the WRC reception desk and ask to check out Diana Hacker’s A Writer’s Reference. You will need a driver’s license or a student ID card to check this book out for use in the WRC.
2. Read the section on colon use.
3. Respond to the following about colon use:
   a. List the three uses of the colon and provide one original example:
      Rule: ___________________________________________________________
      Example: _________________________________________________________
      Rule: _____________________________________________________________
      Example: _________________________________________________________
      Rule: _____________________________________________________________
      Example: _________________________________________________________

4. Next, complete the exercise below by inserting colons where needed and eliminating unnecessary colons.

5. Finally, take this sheet and your completed exercises to a tutor or instructor on duty for a review of your work. Ask this person to sign below.

_________________________________________  __________________________
Signature                                      Date
In the following paragraph, insert colons where they are needed and eliminate any improperly placed colons. The paragraph comes from Developmental Exercises to Accompany A Writer’s Reference.

In 1951, Althea Gibson broke the color barrier in women’s tennis and became admired all over the world. No one who knew her as a teenager would have predicted her success. By the time Althea Gibson reached her teens, her record showed three indications of trouble, running away from home, dropping out of school and losing the one job she had been able to find. To survive in her neighborhood, Althea depended on: a small welfare allowance, occasional handouts, and plain old luck. She listed her skills as the following, good bowler, great two-on-two basketball player, and fast paddleball player. Even after she began playing tennis and moving in upper-class Harlem society, she resented the efforts of the society ladies to improve her. They busied themselves with tasks such as: correcting her manners and redirecting her behavior. Looking back, she later summed up her attitude she said she wasn’t ready to study about “how to be a fine lady.” At eighteen, she finally got: a waitress job, a congenial roommate, and a good friend.