Sentence Patterns for Sophomores

Pattern F: **S, Appositive, V or Appositive, S V**
An appositive is a noun or a noun phrase that explains, identifies, or redefines another noun close by. Appositives do not have subjects or verbs. In the following examples, the appositive phrase modifies the subject.
Ex.: Mary, my best friend, lives in Colorado.  
*The owner of the store, Mr. Shopps expanded his inventory.*

Pattern G: **Participial Phrase, S V**
Participial phrases can begin with either past or present participles. Present participles are verb forms that end in –ing; past participles are verb forms that usually end in ed, t, or n. However, many past tense participles such as swum have irregular endings. Participles are actually used as adjectives.
Ex.: Guarding us with their weapons, the heavily armed soldiers looked ominous.  
*Warning: Make sure the participial phrase is followed by the noun/pronoun it describes!*  
*Incorrect Ex.: Buried at the bottom of the potato bin, the sheriff discovered the gem. (The sheriff was not buried; the gem was.)*

Pattern H: **S V, Participial Phrase**
Ex.: The sun pushes through the early morning fog, inspiring people with a desire to invent and create.

Pattern I: **Gerund Phrase V**
A gerund is a verb form that ends in –ing. Gerunds are actually nouns.
Ex.: Leaving early would be a mistake.

Pattern J: **Infinitive Phrase V**
An infinitive is a verb form that begins with to and is followed by a verb with no additional endings. Infinitives are actually nouns, adjectives, or adverbs.
Ex.: To give an example of the problem helps the students finish their math assignment.

Pattern K: **Infinitive Phrase, S V**
Ex.: To give another example, the teacher turned on the projector.

Pattern L: **S V; S V**
This pattern contains two complete thoughts joined by a semicolon. Use this pattern to show how closely connected the two thoughts are.
Ex.: Mr. Brush enjoys painting; Ms. Clay thoroughly dislikes it.

Pattern M: **S V; Conjunctive Adverb, S V**
A conjunctive adverb joins two independent clauses to show results, contrast, time, or additional information. In this pattern, the clauses must have a very close relationship. The following are some common conjunctive adverbs: therefore, consequently, as a result, thus, accordingly, however, nevertheless, on the contrary, on the other hand, moreover, furthermore, in addition, meanwhile, at any rate, after all.
Ex.: The application was lost in the mail; consequently, the man was never granted an interview with the company.

Pattern N: **Items in a series (A, B, C or A and B and C or A or B or C)**
In these patterns, a series of similar items such as nouns, adjectives, adverbs, etc. are joined with either commas or conjunctions. Do not use conjunctions and commas together. The similar items must have the same grammatical structure (parallelism).
Ex.: New tires, new brakes, new shock absorbers – I just spent eight hundred dollars.  
Chips and salsa and guacamole sound good.  
Dancing or eating or socializing will occur during the reception.