

OPTIONAL COMMAS

Which of the following sentences require a comma?

He works and he plays.

She works and he plays.

Mary Jane works at the corner store and Billy Joe plays video games all day.

Mary Jane has always been able to find work in the local economy and Billy Joe has always been able to entertain himself with amusing adventures.

The United States House of Representatives drafts legislation and the United States President signs or does not sign that legislation.

The United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate draft legislation on various issues addressing the country in hopes to make us a better nation and the United States President approves of that legislation by signing it.

The first one is the only one that really does not need a comma.

This is because the subject is the same AND the clauses are very short.

The second one would not be terrible WITHOUT a comma, but all the rest should have a comma.

Academic writing should follow the IC, + IC rule. In your personal writing you may forego the rule.