COMMAS CONT.

NONESSENTIAL AND INTERRUPTING PHRASES
Place commas around a word or phrase that meets these two conditions: 1. It is not necessary for the sentence to make sense. 2. It interrupts the flow of the sentence, almost as if the word or phrase could be put in parentheses.

Examples:
We cannot, however, allow them to launch another attack.
This is the first time, I believe, we have been faced with layoffs.
You understand, of course, that pets require a lot of work.
Yellowstone, the nation’s first national park, welcomes millions of visitors every year.
George Washington, although an inspirational leader, was not a brilliant military strategist.

DATES AND PLACES
Place a comma between and after the city and state or nation.

Examples:
I grew up in Billings, Montana.
They went on their honeymoon to Paris, France.
I grew up in Billings, Montana, during the 1980s.

Place a comma between and after the date and the year.

America declared independence from Britain on July 4, 1776.
On July 4th, 1776, American colonies declared independence from Britain.

Note: Omit the comma if the sentence does not give the day of the month. June 1944 marked an important turning point in World War II. I was born in October of 1965.

ADDRESSING SOMEONE DIRECTLY
Place commas around a person or group directly addressed in the sentence. If the person is being referred to, but not addressed directly, no comma is needed.

Examples:
First of all, Mandy, you need to spend more time doing homework.
Sarah, please accept my apology for forgetting about our date.
I wonder if David will come to my party on Saturday. (no comma necessary)