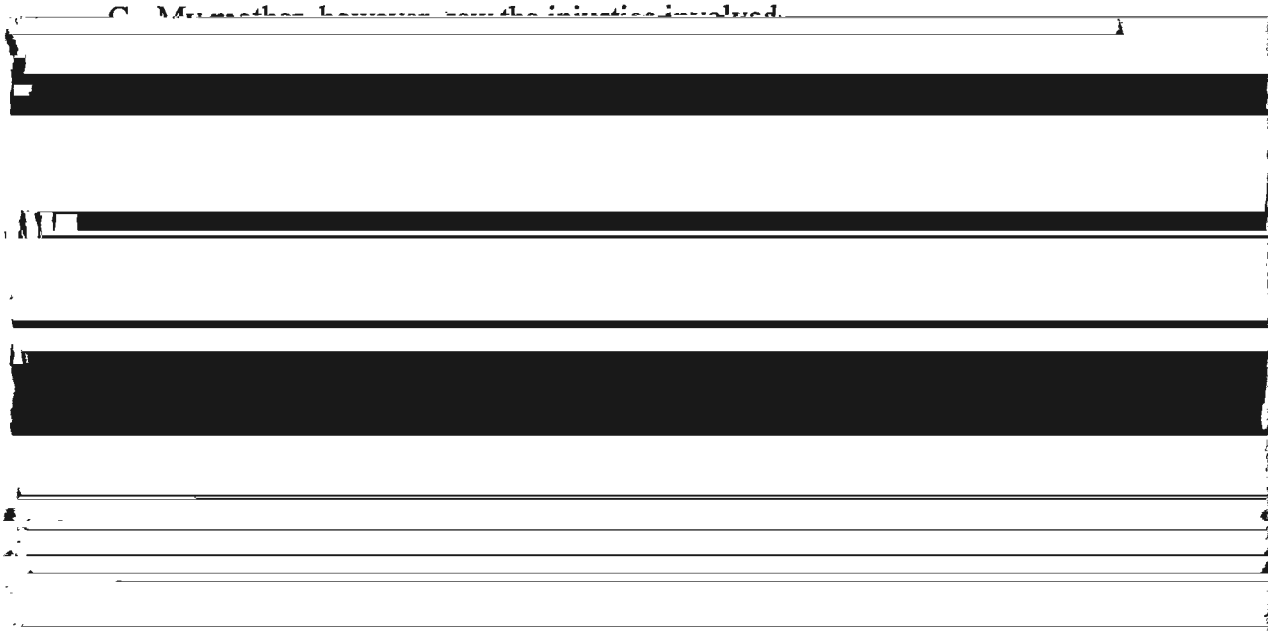
Comma Exercises[28]

DePauw University Writing Center

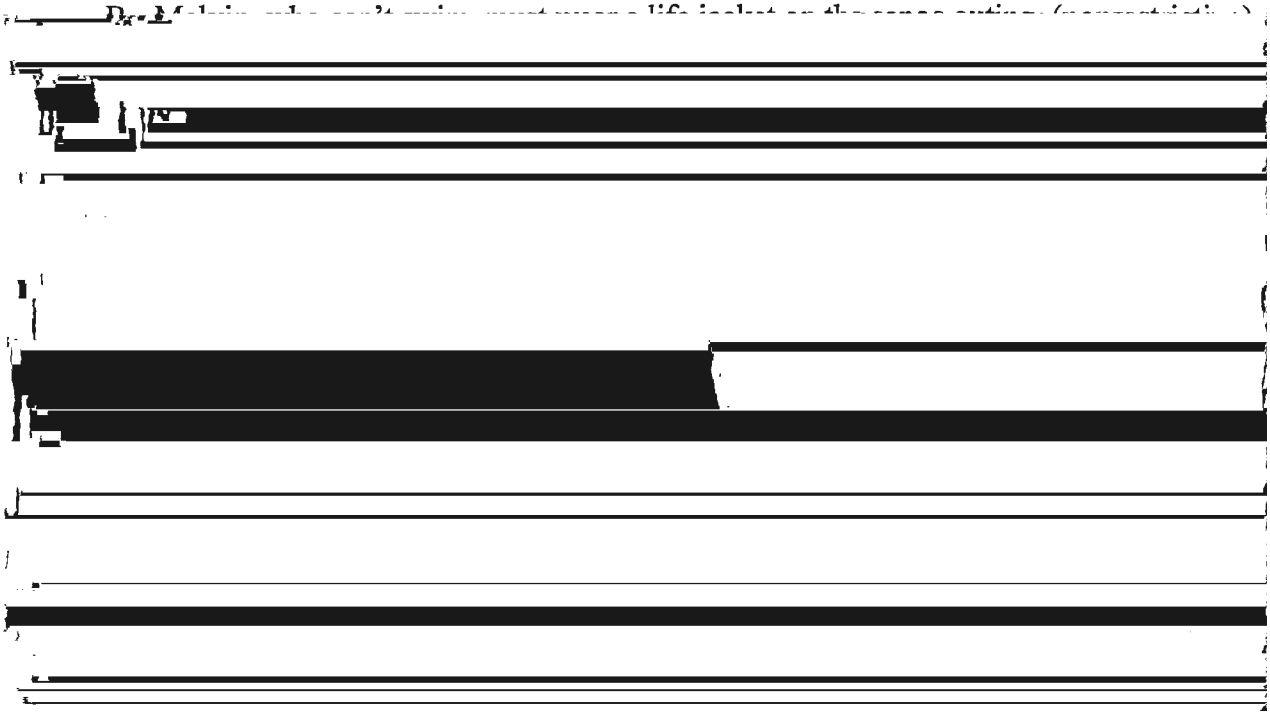
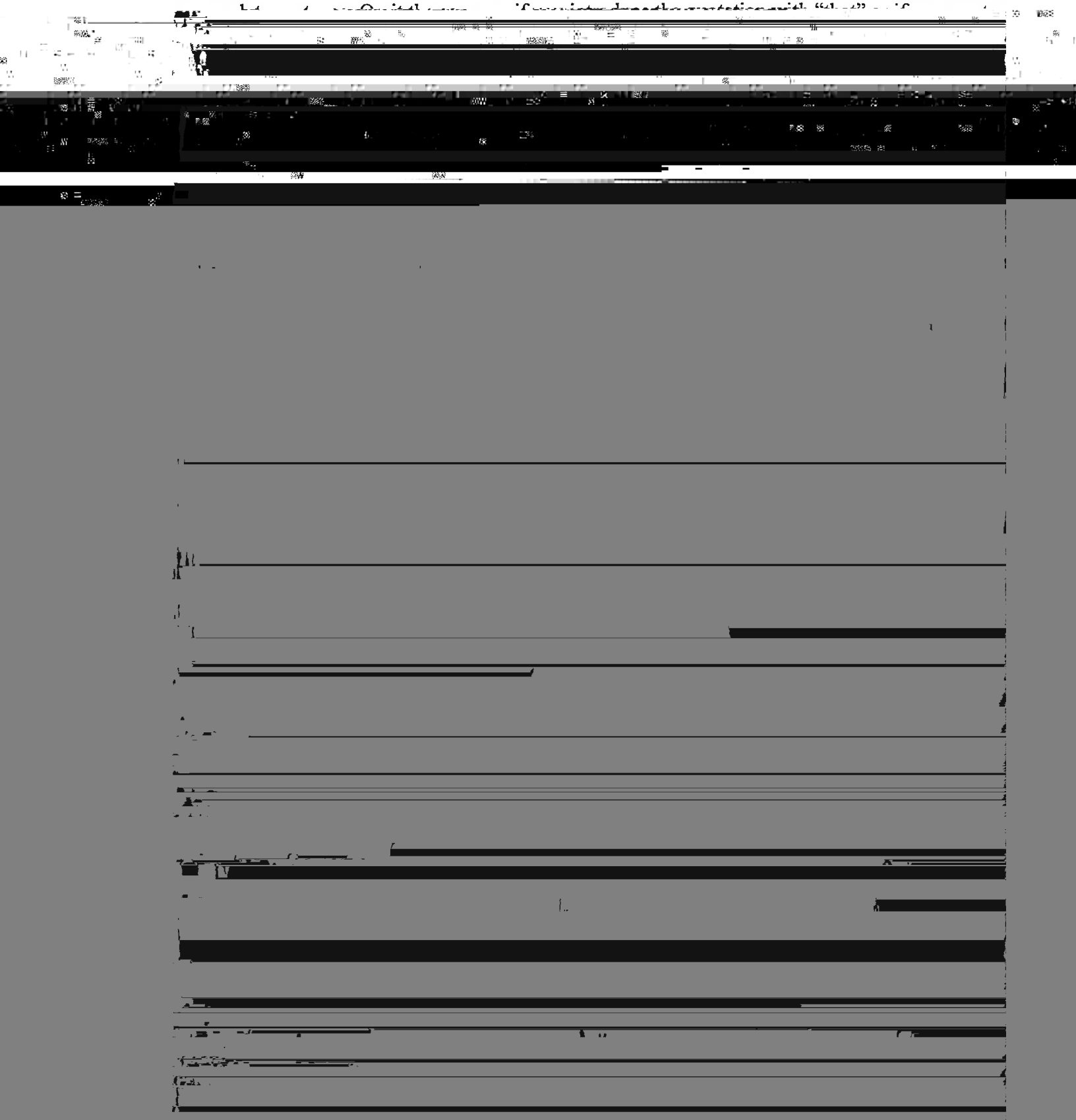
1. Use commas to set off nonessential modifiers. A word, phrase or clause that interrupts the normal flow of the sentence without changing the meaning is nonessential or nonrestrictive. You need a comma both before and after the interrupter.

   A. Clarence, our cat, surprised us with three kittens.
   B. My father, who leads a sheltered life, took a dim view of my being arrested.
   C. [redacted]



2. Do not use commas around essential (or restrictive) modifiers.

   A. All the students who can't swim must wear life jackets on the canoe outing. (restrictive)
   B. [redacted]



6. Use a comma to separate a direct quotation from your own words introducing it – if you quote