COLONS

- - - - When 2 clauses have equal importance
- - - - When the 2nd clause restates the 1st
- - - - When the 2nd clause begins with a transition ("in fact"), or a conjunctive adverb ("however")

SEMICOLONS

- - - - When adding emphasis to the 2nd clause
- - - - When an independent clause is followed by a list or quotation

Still a little shaky? Check out the Writing Center Website or the Purdue OWL Punctuation Guide.