



NATIONAL PUNCTUATION DAY®

“A celebration of the lowly comma, correctly used quotation marks, and other proper uses of periods, semicolons, and the ever-mysterious ellipsis.”

Featured in Chase's Calendar of Events



Congratulations to the winners of the National Punctuation Day® Presidential Punctuation Challenge

Adult Division

I know, with out-and-out certainty, which mark should be the official punctuation mark of the President of the United States; it has to be the period. I say that for two reasons: 1) the fact that “full stop” is a (chiefly British [according to Webster’s]) synonym for “period” and 2) the fact that —as per the sign that sat on Harry Truman’s desk in the Oval Office — “The ... stops here!” Could any other argument top that one?

Dana Cook Grossman, East Thetford, VT

President Kennedy said, “Ask not what your country can do for you ...” (January 20, 1961 [<http://wikipedia.org>]), and what piece of punctuation follows that advice better than the period? This sentence-terminating mark does not question what America can do for it—that’s the role of another mark—nor does it loudly exclaim its own worth; instead, it does the following: enables abbreviation and provides closure to billions of American sentences! The choice is clear: the period should be the official mark of the President of the United States.

Eve Baker, Dayton, OH

Student Division

A wise man once said: “No written work is complete without a little suspense...that is, anticipation that makes your ever-stable heart race, your eyes widen, and your mind hungry for more,” and I believe he is correct; what would we do without a little suspense in our lives to keep us guessing? The Presidential Punctuation Mark can’t be too plain or too expected (although at the same time, not [too] unknown); it needs to be awesome! Obviously the possibilities are endless—semicolons, brackets, hyphens—but only one provides so much drama that the words following the punctuation are startling...the ellipsis.

Vincenza Montante
Washington-Lee High School, Arlington, VA

When looking for the best presidential candidate, one must look not only at his strengths, but at his flaws, as well; how would you like a president who always questions himself, yells constantly, is very possessive, or constantly trails off during a speech? “There’s a multitude [of punctuation marks] ... only one is fit to be president: the well-beloved period!” says one bold student—a freshman who strives to succeed in grammar (and loves it, too). The resolute and definite period is the only candidate who can provide sureness for his country and satisfy his people.

Jacques Guillot Jr.
Saint Paul's School, Covington, LA