Syntax

Consider:

He had been prepared to lie, to bluster, to remain sullenly unresponsive; but, reassured by the good-humored intelligence of the Controller's face, he decided to tell the truth, straightforwardly.

— Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*

Discuss:

1. What effect does the repetition of infinitives (*to lie, to bluster, to remain*) in the first clause have on the meaning of the sentence? How do these infinitives prepare you for the infinitive phrase (*to tell the truth*) in the second clause?

2. What is the function of the semicolon in Huxley's sentence?

Apply:

Write a sentence with two independent clauses connected by a semicolon. In the first clause use a series of infinitives (as in Huxley's sentence). In the second clause, use an infinitive to contradict your first clause. Your topic is a movie you have recently seen. Share your sentence with the class.