Why punctuation matters

Please read the paragraph below and make note of any rhetorical or grammatical issues that you would like to discuss with the writer. As a class, we will shape a peer review memo with feedback for this writer.

University professors have long noted the apparent spike in deaths of grandmas during the academic semesters in which their grandchildren attend college. The common HMO diagnosis is Sudden Grandma Death Syndrome (SGDS) typical risk factors include midterm exams and major writing assignments with oral projects as aggravating factors. However SGDS symptoms are more likely to be expressed through the grandchildren than their grandmas in student statements like I can’t take the exam tomorrow because my grandma died or while dying I couldn’t finish my research paper or I missed your class because I was at my grandmas funeral. Sometimes its not just the one grandma or maybe not just the one funeral as in I missed your class because I was at my grandmas funerals; Agnes my fathers mother Rose my mothers mother and Charlene my stepmothers mother all died from ptomaine poisoning at my sisters dinner party.

One grandma who became particularly alarmed about her health because she had not just one but four grandchildren taking classes at Avery Point DURING THE SAME SEMESTER decided to investigate further and she recorded a series of statements her grandchildren had made when visiting her over the summer and appraising her coin collection. What she heard left her sick and comma-tose with fear which was not good because she had only a semi-colon remaining following her colitis surgery:

- Let’s eat Grandma. I’m hungry.
- Grandma discovered a body in the trunk of her 76 Impala. While decomposing Grandma was still able to identify the remains.
- All grandmas, who are rude, should be uninvited to Thanksgiving dinner.
- At the annual family reunion there was information that Grandma passed out. It was well received.

Should she be worried? Should you?