Eliminating Sentence Fragments

Sentence fragments are incomplete sentences. The most common fragments are easy to identify: they may have a subject, but they lack a verb. Eliminating fragments from your writing can be a simple exercise, requiring only the insertion of a verb, a conjunction, or in some cases, correct punctuation.

When searching for sentence fragments, ask yourself the following questions: What is the subject (noun) of the sentence? What action (verb) is the subject performing?

If you can’t find a person, place or thing as a subject or an action that subject is doing, you may have a fragment.

**Fragment (underlined):** I need to go to the Writing Studio. Because I can not figure out my paper’s thesis!

**Solution:** I need to go to the Writing Studio because I can not figure out my paper’s thesis!

**Fragment (underlined):** Space has many different dangers. Such as aliens, black holes, and exploding stars.

**Solution:** Space has many different dangers, such as aliens, black holes, and exploding stars.

**Fragment (underlined):** Toys of all kinds thrown everywhere.

**Solution (add a verb):** Toys of all kinds were thrown everywhere.

**Fragment (underlined):** By paying too much attention to the polls can make politicians unwilling to propose innovative policies.

**Solution:** (remove preposition and add a verb) Paying too much attention to the polls can make politicians unwilling to propose innovative policies.

Need more help? Schedule an appointment with the Writing Studio in 2420, 25 Park Place at http://gsu.mywconline.net/