

FRAGMENTS

#5
A sentence fragment is an incomplete sentence. In order to be complete, a sentence must have at least one subject, at least one verb, and express a completed statement (or question). Sentence fragments may be creatively acceptable in informal writing situations, but in academic writing where we expect formality and professionalism, fragments are not acceptable and can even make you sound illiterate.

To find fragments in your writing, look at each of your sentences and ask, "Is this complete?"

Examples of fragments:

Such as "The Star-Child" or "The Devoted Friend."

Or why Grethel is so weepy.

The point being that Cinderella can take care of herself.

As well as when the Young King goes to his coronation and confronts the Bishop.

Which explains why the Selfish Giant learns to be unselfish.

To fix fragments, you have at least two options:

1. **Join the fragment to the sentence before or after**—whichever it belongs with best.
 - Oscar Wilde frequently wrote unhappy endings for his fairy tales such as "The Star-Child" or "The Devoted Friend."
 - Their youth explains why Hansel is silly enough to leave a trail of breadcrumbs and why Grethel is so weepy.
 - The story must have a turning point, which explains why the Selfish Giant learns to be unselfish.
2. **Rewrite the fragment** so that it is a complete sentence.
 - The point is that Cinderella can take care of herself.
 - Christian symbolism makes an appearance when the Young King wears a crown of thorns, as well as when he goes to his coronation and confronts the Bishop.