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**WRTG 110 Introduction to College Writing Hartley**

**Fragments**

Just like it sounds, a fragment is a broken piece of a complete sentence. The pieces are broken because they are missing a subject or a verb, or because they are stuck in prepositional phrases, relative clauses, or dependent clauses.

Sometimes a fragment is missing its **verb**.

**These sentences are fragments. How might you fix them?**

* The ultimate goal of all advertising.
* A story with deep thoughts and emotions.
* Toys of all kinds thrown everywhere.
* A record of accomplishment beginning when you were first hired.

Other times, the fragment might be missing its **subject.**

**How would you fix these examples?**

* Asked if I’d heard about the new curriculum being taught in our schools.
* Can make a political leader unwilling to propose innovative policies.
* Got fired for doing freelance work for a competitor.

Most fragments are simply **separated from their main clause**, and are therefore easy to fix.

* **Fragment**: UAA offers many majors in science. Such as biology, geology, and chemistry.   
  **Possible Revision**: UAA offers many majors in science, such as biology, geology, and chemistry.
* **Fragment**: The coach walked off the field in the middle of a game. Leaving her team at a time when we needed her.   
  **Possible Revision**: The coach walked off the field in the middle of a game, leaving her team at a time when we needed her.
* **Fragment**: I need to find a new roommate. Because the one I have now isn't working out too well.   
  **Possible Revision**: I need to find a new roommate because the one I have now isn't working out too well.
* **Fragment**: The current city policy on housing is incomplete as it stands. Which is why we believe the proposed amendments should be passed.   
  **Possible Revision**: Becausethe current city policy on housing is incomplete as it stands, we believe the proposed amendments should be passed.

The biggest challenge with fragments is **finding them** hiding among other sentences.

**Look at the underlined sentences from our pre-quiz. Can you tell WHY these are fragments?**

1. Maria wasn't watching her plate of salmon very carefully. So Santana, the family beagle, snatched a filet hanging over the edge. As baked beans and potato salad slid onto Maria's new sandals.
2. Ever since Andre peeked at Melissa's paper during the biology exam. Guilt has consumed him. Even the Fruit Loops floating in his cereal bowl seem like the accusing eyes of Dr. Sanchez, his biology instructor.
3. Ivan opened the door of his cluttered refrigerator. Which caused a pint of blueberries to fall to the floor. The fruit bounced and rolled everywhere in an explosion of blue juice.
4. Richie loves to walk his friends' dogs at Westchester Lagoon. For example, Kim's Labrador retriever Murphy or Ren’s bulldog Kembo. Richie has learned that it’s easier to talk to strangers when he travels in a pack.
5. Head down, Lela stared at the textbook on her desk. She understood the fragment practice that Ms. Kuyoga was going over in class. But was too shy to raise her hand and volunteer an answer.