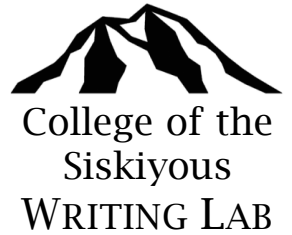


# SENTENCE FRAGMENTS



**INTRODUCTION:** Fragments are a common error that can be corrected if the writer learns how to recognize them. Fragments are words or word groups that are punctuated like a sentence but cannot stand alone to convey a complete idea. They are missing either a subject or a verb, or they have extra parts that weigh them down and make them dependent.

**The Holt Handbook suggests asking these three questions:**

1) Does the word group have a subject? If not, it is a fragment.

Examples:

- Lived my life in complete freedom.
- Am not doing any homework.
- Thinking that is the way it should be.

2) Does it have a verb? If not, it is a fragment.

Examples:

- The black dog with one blue eye.
- The girl in blue jeans and a yellow top.
- A white limousine squealing tires around the corner.

3) Is it a dependent clause beginning with a subordinating conjunction? If so, it is a fragment.

Examples:

- Before she received her paycheck.
- When we go to the French restaurant.
- Even though the meals were expensive.