A **SENTENCE FRAGMENT** is missing one or more of the essential parts of a complete sentence:

1. A **subject** (The person or actor in the sentence)
2. A **verb or action** (Exactly what the person/actor in the sentence is doing)
3. A **complete thought** (An independent--versus dependent--statement that can stand alone and make sense)

**To fix** fragments:

1. **Add the missing element(s)**  OR  
2. **Combine the fragment with an adjacent sentence.**

**Examples:**

- Waited in the rain for him to show. (**Who** waited in the rain? We need a subject.)
  
  **John** waited in the rain for him to show.

- The cat in the dark alley. (**Did what?** A predicate is needed here.)
  
  **The cat in the dark alley hissed at the shadows.**

- Although they got along well. (**This is an incomplete thought. You can hear that something is missing.**)
  
  **Although they got along well, they rarely spent time together.**

- A film about mindless consumerism. (**This is another incomplete thought. What is missing?**)
  
  **Zombieland is a film about mindless consumerism.**

- We fear loss of technology. **Because we are unsure if we have the necessary survival skills as a society.**
  
  (This is a fragmented clause; “because” makes it dependent, despite the presence of a subject and verb.)

  **We fear loss of technology because we are unsure if we have the necessary survival skills as a society.**

- There are three popular monsters used most often in young adult literature. Vampires, werewolves, and zombies.
  
  (The list is a fragment; it can be connected to the lead-in sentence with a colon.)

  **There are three popular monsters used most often in young adult literature: vampires, werewolves, and zombies.**

**To determine whether these parts are present in the sentence, ask yourself these questions:**

- **Who or what is performing the action?**  (This identifies the subject.)
- **What action is the subject performing?**  (This identifies the predicate, or verb and controlling idea.)
- **Does the sentence present a complete thought?**  (If not, the sentence is a sentence fragment, even if it contains both a subject and a predicate.)