

FRAGMENTS

Delgado Community College

A fragment is a group of words that looks like a sentence (has capitalization and end punctuation) but lacks an independent clause. There are several types of fragments. Writers need to identify fragments and fix the fragments when they occur.

Type	Example	Explanation
No subject	Incorrect: Drew Brees called for the ball. Ran out the clock. Fixed: Drew Brees called for the ball. <u>He</u> ran out the clock.	Occur when the writer assumes the reader understands who or what the subject is. It's best to always keep a subject.
No verb	Incorrect: Drew Brees called for the ball. Running out the clock. Fixed: Drew Brees called for the ball. <u>He</u> ran out the clock.	Occur when the writer is missing a main verb (although a participle form might exist).
Subordinating word	Incorrect: Because he ran out the clock. Correct: Because he ran out the clock, the team held on to possession at the end.	Occur when writers are attempting to create a complex sentence (use subordination). Conjunctions such as because, since, although, etc create dependent clauses. Fix by creating the correct complex sentence.
Added detail	Incorrect: My mom made my favorite meal. Pastalaya, garlic French bread, and salad. Correct: My mom made my favorite meal which is Pastalaya, garlic French bread, and salad.	Occur when writers neglect to include details in the previous sentences. Fix by properly punctuating and added the details to an independent clause.
Intentional	He calls me. All. The. Time. He said he'd call. But when?	These are used in casual or creating writing and should be avoided in academic writing. They are intentional and meant to show emphasis
