The Writing Center
Presents:
Run-on Sentences and Fragments
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Fragments

• Definition
  – A sentence fragment is a part of a sentence that is written as if it were a whole sentence, with a capital letter at the beginning and a period, question mark, or exclamation point at the end. A fragment lacks a subject, a complete verb, or both. Or a fragment may begin with a subordinating word such as because, which indicates that it depends for its meaning on another sentence.
Example: Marie Antoinette spent huge sums of money on herself and her favorites. **Helped bring on the French Revolution.**

Correct: Her extravagance helped bring on the French Revolution.
Fragment Without a Verb

• Example: The old aluminum boat sitting on its trailer.

• Correct: The old aluminum boat was sitting on its trailer.
Fragment Beginning with a Subordinate Word

• Example: We returned to the drugstore. Where we waited for our buddies.

• Correct: We returned to the drugstore, where we waited for our buddies.
Eliminating Fragments

• You can eliminate sentence fragments in one of two ways: Either add the missing subject or verb (or both) to turn the fragment into a sentence or incorporate the fragment into a nearby sentence.
Run-On Sentences

• Definition
  – A run-on sentence includes independent clauses that have not been joined correctly. An independent clause includes a subject and predicate and can stand alone as a complete sentence. Two or more independent clauses may be joined in one sentence if they are linked in one of these ways:
• With a comma and a coordinating conjunctions (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so)
• With a semicolon, colon, dash
Examples:
Run-ons and Fused Sentences

• There are two types of run-on sentences: a fused sentence and a comma splice. A fused sentence lacks either punctuation or a coordinating conjunction.

• Example: Everyone was asked to give an opinion on the plane, Mr. Smith was out of town.
Comma Splice

• A comma splice happens when two independent clauses are joined (or “spliced”) by a comma without coordinating conjunctions.

• Example: Professional athletes can earn huge salaries, some are paid millions of dollars a year.
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