



SENTENCE FRAGMENTS

Related Handouts: See **TERMS TO KNOW**: Vital Sentence Elements, Clauses and Sentence Types, and Prepositional and Verbal Phrases

THE PRINCIPLE

A sentence fragment is a partial sentence. It may dress like a sentence (start with a capital letter, end with a period), but something is missing.

To be grammatically complete, a group of words must name something or someone (that's the **subject**) and must express a complete thought about it (in the **predicate**, which must contain a **verb**).

THE PROBLEM:

A sentence fragment may be incomplete because it

- Is missing a subject, OR
- Is missing a verb, OR
- Is missing both a subject and a verb, OR
- Does not finish expressing its thought.

The sentence fragments in the following paragraph are underlined:

Although Lance Armstrong got most of the publicity. He was not the only amazing cyclist in the 2005 Tour de France. Ivan Basso also had an excellent showing. And rode to two stage wins in the Giro d'Italia as well. He is a superb cyclist. David Zabriski, who rode for team CSC and got a great start but unfortunately crashed in the team time trial and had to drop out of the race. But Lance Armstrong is in a class by himself. Winning seven Tours after recovering from cancer. Which is a phenomenal accomplishment. Bravo!

THE SOLUTION: (You'll need to refer to **TERMS TO KNOW** for definitions of the terms in bold type)

- 1) Although Lance Armstrong got most of the publicity.

This word group contains a **subject** (Lance Armstrong) and a **predicate** with a **verb** (got most of the publicity), but it does not finish expressing its idea. That's because the word "although," a **subordinate conjunction**, turns the whole thing into a **subordinate or dependent clause**. To finish expressing its thought, it needs to be attached to the **independent clause** that follows it:

Although Lance Armstrong got most of the publicity, he was not the only amazing cyclist in the 2005 Tour de France.

- 2) And rode to two stage wins in the Giro d'Italia as well.