Full Thought Finder

Sort complete sentences from unfinished thoughts.

6.W "Students compose writing and presentations for various genres which demonstrate a command of English grammar and usage through the writing and research processes."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SENTENCE

A sentence expresses a complete thought. It has a subject and a verb, though a command can leave the subject "you" unstated.

Owls hooted at midnight.

FRAGMENT

A fragment does not express a complete thought on its own. It may be missing a subject or verb, or it may leave an idea unfinished.

Under bright balloons.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle SENTENCE or FRAGMENT for each item, then choose one of each and explain how you knew.

1.	Maya recorded the rainfall in her notebook.	SENTENCE FRAGMENT
2.	The mayor announced a new park.	SENTENCE FRAGMENT
3.	Beside the cracked aquarium.	SENTENCE FRAGMENT
4.	Three musicians practiced before sunrise.	SENTENCE FRAGMENT
5.	Because the train arrived late.	SENTENCE FRAGMENT
6.	A mysterious letter from the museum.	SENTENCE FRAGMENT
7.	Our class debated the best solution.	SENTENCE FRAGMENT
8.	Please close the gate quietly.	SENTENCE FRAGMENT

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one of each and explain how you knew.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new sentence and one new fragment.

SENTENCE _____

FRAGMENT _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one fragment from Part 1 and turn it into a complete sentence while keeping its original words in the same order.

ANSWER KEY # Full Thought Finder

GRADE 6 · 6.W

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Maya recorded the rainfall in her notebook.	**SENTENCE**	It has a subject and verb and expresses a complete thought.
2	The mayor announced a new park.	**SENTENCE**	It has a subject and verb and expresses a complete thought.
3	Beside the cracked aquarium.	**FRAGMENT**	This phrase has no subject or verb.
4	Three musicians practiced before sunrise.	**SENTENCE**	It has a subject and verb and expresses a complete thought.
5	Because the train arrived late.	**FRAGMENT**	Because leaves the thought unfinished.
6	A mysterious letter from the museum.	**FRAGMENT**	This noun phrase has no verb.
7	Our class debated the best solution.	**SENTENCE**	It has a subject and verb and expresses a complete thought.
8	Please close the gate quietly.	**SENTENCE**	This command expresses a complete thought; its subject, you, is unstated.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one of each and explain how you knew.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **SENTENCE**: The puppy chased a bouncing ball.
- **FRAGMENT**: Near the open window.

Challenge: Because the train arrived late, the concert started after noon.

Items 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8 are sentences; items 3, 5, and 6 are fragments. For Part 2, accept explanations that identify a complete thought or explain what is missing or unfinished.