

Sentence or Fragment?

Sort each group of words by whether it tells a whole thought.

2.11 "Composition: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--writing process. The student uses the writing process recursively to compose multiple texts that are legible and uses appropriate conventions..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

COMPLETE SENTENCE

A complete sentence tells a whole thought. It has a who or what and tells what happens.

The librarian reads quietly.

FRAGMENT

A fragment does not tell a whole thought. It is missing a who or what, or what happens.

On the blue rug.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Part 1 SORT: Circle the tag that matches each item; Part 2 PROVE IT: Pick two items and write how you knew which tag to circle.

1. The red kite rose above the field.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

2. Our neighbors planted tomatoes.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

3. Beside the old fence.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

4. The fox ran into the woods.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

5. With a shiny new helmet.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

6. Across the bridge at sunset.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

7. Dad packs lunches every morning.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

8. The tiny seeds sprouted quickly.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

2 PROVE IT Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN One of each

Part 3 MAKE YOUR OWN: Write one new complete sentence and one new fragment.

SENTENCE _____

FRAGMENT _____

CHALLENGE

Write a complete sentence, then cross out the words that tell what happens so your sentence becomes a fragment.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The red kite rose above the field.	SENTENCE	It has a subject, "The red kite," and a predicate, "rose above the field," so it tells a whole thought.
2	Our neighbors planted tomatoes.	SENTENCE	It tells who did something and what they did.
3	Beside the old fence.	FRAGMENT	It tells where, but it does not tell a whole thought or what happened.
4	The fox ran into the woods.	SENTENCE	It has a subject and a predicate and tells a whole thought.
5	With a shiny new helmet.	FRAGMENT	It does not tell who or what happened.
6	Across the bridge at sunset.	FRAGMENT	It is a phrase that tells where and when, not a whole thought.
7	Dad packs lunches every morning.	SENTENCE	It tells who did something and what he did.
8	The tiny seeds sprouted quickly.	SENTENCE	It has a subject and a predicate and tells a whole thought.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

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 rain drummed on the roof.
- **FRAGMENT:** Near the tall mailbox.

Challenge: Complete sentence: The frogs croak at night. Fragment after crossing out the predicate: The frogs.

Items 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8 are SENTENCE. Items 3, 5, and 6 are FRAGMENT; accept student examples that correctly show a whole thought or an incomplete thought.