Thought or Fragment

Sort sentences, prove your thinking, and create your own.

3.LU "The student will use the conventions of Standard English when speaking and writing, differentiating between contexts that call for formal English and situations where informal discourse is more appropriate. Grammar Produce, expand..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMPLETE SENTENCE

A complete sentence tells a full thought. It has someone or something and tells what that person, place, animal, or thing does or is.

A rabbit hopped over stones.

INCOMPLETE SENTENCE

An incomplete sentence does not tell a full thought. It needs more words to make sense as a sentence.

Beside the noisy waterfall.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle COMPLETE or INCOMPLETE for each item, then choose two items and explain what makes each one complete or incomplete.

1.	The puppy chased its tail.	COMPLETE INCOMPLETE
2.	My brother and I built a fort.	COMPLETE INCOMPLETE
3.	Under the tall tree.	COMPLETE INCOMPLETE
4.	The yellow bus stopped quickly.	COMPLETE INCOMPLETE
5.	After dinner tonight.	COMPLETE INCOMPLETE
6.	Running across the field.	COMPLETE INCOMPLETE
7.	Our class planted seeds.	COMPLETE INCOMPLETE
8.	In the old box.	COMPLETE INCOMPLETE

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

Write one new COMPLETE sentence and one new INCOMPLETE sentence.

COMPLETE _____

INCOMPLETE _____

CHALLENGE

Write a COMPLETE sentence that tells about two actions.

ANSWER KEY

Thought or Fragment

GRADE 3 · 3.LU

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The puppy chased its tail.	**COMPLETE**	It has a subject, puppy, and tells what the puppy did.
2	My brother and I built a fort.	**COMPLETE**	It tells a full thought with a subject and action.
3	Under the tall tree.	**INCOMPLETE**	It tells where, but not what happened.
4	The yellow bus stopped quickly.	**COMPLETE**	It has a subject and a complete action.
5	After dinner tonight.	**INCOMPLETE**	It tells when, but it does not tell what happened.
6	Running across the field.	**INCOMPLETE**	It tells an action but not who is doing it.
7	Our class planted seeds.	**COMPLETE**	It tells a full thought about what the class did.
8	In the old box.	**INCOMPLETE**	It tells where, but it does not tell a full 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)

- **COMPLETE**: Dad fixed the broken gate.
- **INCOMPLETE**: Near the sparkling pond.

Challenge: The girls sang and danced at the party.

For Part 2, students should name a clue such as a subject and action for a complete sentence, or explain what information is missing from an incomplete sentence. Accept different accurate examples in Part 3 and the challenge.