SENTENCE FRAGMENTS

A COMPLETE SENTENCE MUST HAVE 3 ELEMENTS:

1. A Tensed (Main) Verb
2. A Subject
3. A Complete Idea

Tensed Verb: A verb that shows time and person.

IF ANY OF THESE ELEMENTS ARE MISSING, YOU HAVE A SENTENCE FRAGMENT.

EXAMPLES

NO TENSED (MAIN) VERB:

INCORRECT:
Feminine décor throughout the space, but sparse in furnishings.
CORRECTED:
Feminine décor is used throughout the space, but its furnishings are sparse.

INCORRECT:
Giving the child the opportunity to feel useful and a part of the family unit.
CORRECTED:
Parents should give the child opportunities to feel useful and a part of the family unit.

NO SUBJECT

INCORRECT:
In the short story “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?” by Joyce Carol Oates, is a compelling story of evil trying to consume good.

CORRECTED:
In the short story “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?” by Joyce Carol Oates is a compelling story of evil trying to consume good.

INCOMPLETE IDEA

INCORRECT:
Once Arnold shows up and gets in her head.
CORRECTED:
Once Arnold shows up, he gets in her head.

What happens once Arnold shows up and gets in her head?? This is not a complete idea!

Prepositional phrases cannot function as subjects!