

Judging Fragment Effectiveness (with Sources)

Using your Creating Sentence Fragment Rules handout as a reference, judge whether or not the following sentence fragments are effective or not. If you find it effective, state the rule you would cite as the reason for its effectiveness. If not, then rewrite the sentence with effective punctuation.

1. I didn't go straight home from the concert. Because I didn't want to go to bed.

Effective? Yes/No

Reason why or sentence rewrite:

2. Purchasing a pet eagle seemed like a great decision at the time I made it without telling you. I imagined our new eagle would be both companion and playmate; a loving friend to share our lives with. Like a dog or cat, but better because it can fly and scream. (Tom O'Donnell <http://www.mcsweeneys.net/articles/ok-maybe-our-apartment-is-too-small-for-a-bald-eagle>).

Effective? Yes/No

Reason why or sentence rewrite:

3. Perhaps the lavender I wanted was basic lavender. Ordinary lavender. Papa's lavender. (2003: 3)

Effective? Yes/No

Reason why or sentence rewrite:

4. I have thrown many things away in life. But aftershave bottles, never. (2003: 5)

Effective? Yes/No

Reason why or sentence rewrite:

5. I don't remember the name of my second-grade teacher. Probably because it was a common name, Johnson, as I learned when I found a stack of old report cards.

Effective? Yes/No

Reason why or sentence rewrite:

6. Not yearning to go socially any higher than I am now—content, that is, with the friends I have—I am, in this regard at least, in the snob-free zone. Not so, alas, in other regards. (2003: 59)
Effective? Yes/No
Reason why or sentence rewrite:
7. Strange. And ridiculous. Snob-free zone? Haven't myself yet arrived anywhere close. Perhaps in the next life. Or possibly the one after that. (2003: 60).
Effective? Yes/No
Reason why or sentence rewrite:
8. And the plan? she wanted to know. Ah, yes, the plan. (2003: 88)
Effective? Yes/No
Reason why or sentence rewrite:
9. Little boys don't really understand the concept of sharing or hoarding objects. Until they turn five.
Effective? Yes/No
Reason why or sentence rewrite:
10. The kitchen where I'm making dinner is a New York kitchen. Nice light, way too small, nowhere to put anything unless the stove goes. (2003: 146)
Effective? Yes/No
Reason why or sentence rewrite: