

# COMMON WRITING CONCERNS



## Subject-Verb Disagreement

There is subject and verb disagreement when they don't match in number. This often seems easy, but can be very confusing in complex contexts!

For example, when two nouns differ in number and are joined, the verb takes the closest noun.



*Either the pizza rolls or the sandwich causes a stomach ache.*



*Both the sandwich and the pizza rolls cause a stomach ache.*



## Sentence Fragments

A sentence fragment is an incomplete sentence that often excludes the subject or verb.



*I like spring. Because of the rain.*



*I like spring because of the rain.*



## Passive Voice

Passive voice prioritizes the subject of the sentence. Active voice prioritizes the verb of a sentence.

Passive voice isn't an "error." Some science and creative writing styles prefer passive voice. Aside from these rare cases, most professors and instructors prefer active voice.



*This paper is going to write itself.*



*This paper writes itself.*