

## Exercises for Avoiding Fragments and Run-ons --answers

**EXERCISE 35.1** Rewrite the following passage to eliminate any sentence fragments.

The news agenda in the United States used to be set by just a few institutions. Chiefly the news arms of the three television networks (CBS, NBC, and ABC). Along with three or four major papers. These media were located mainly on the East and West Coasts. Giving the coastal regions extra clout in political affairs. Especially influential was the *New York Times*. Considered the paper of record in the United States. However, in recent years, 24-hour news channels, radio talk shows, and Internet news outlets have challenged the power of the traditional media. Widening the range of news topics. Creating outlets for regional opinions. Providing places to examine and question mainstream news sources. The *New York Times* has become a favorite target of many critics in the new media outlets. Especially bloggers, who have had a field day finding errors and omissions in its coverage.

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Corrected:

The news agenda in the United States used to be set by just a few institutions, chiefly the news arms of the three television networks (CBS, NBC, and ABC) along with the three or four major papers. These media were located mainly on the East and West Coasts and gave the coastal regions extra clout in political affairs—especially influential was the *New York Times*, considered the paper of record in the United States. However, in recent years, 24-hour news channels, radio talk shows, and Internet news outlets have challenged the power of the traditional media. They have widened the range of news topics, created outlets for regional opinions, and provided places to examine and question mainstream new sources. The *New York Times* has become a favorite target of many critics in the new media outlets, especially bloggers who have had a field day finding errors and omissions in its coverage.

## Exercises for Avoiding Fragments and Run-ons --answers

**EXERCISE 35.3** Identify the sentences with comma splices and correct them.

1. At one time the walls in many Philadelphia neighborhoods were covered with graffiti, however they are covered with murals today.
2. Since 1984 a city-sponsored program has been teaming young graffiti writers with professional artists, the result is the creation of over a thousand works of public art.
3. The murals are large, they are colorful, they are 99 percent graffiti-free.
4. A forty-foot-tall mural of Julius ("Dr. J") Erving has become a local landmark, so that even Dr. J himself brings friends by to see it.
5. The theory behind the program is that graffiti writers, being artists themselves, will not deface a work of art they respect, so far the theory seems to hold true.

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## Exercises for Avoiding Fragments and Run-ons --answers

**EXERCISE 35.4** Rewrite these sentences to eliminate punctuation problems that create run-on sentences.

1. Centuries of superstition and ignorance have given bats a bad reputation millions of the flying mammals are killed each year in a misguided effort to protect livestock, crops, and people.
2. Entire species of bats are being wiped out at an alarming rate for example, in the 1960s a new species of fruit-eating bat was discovered in the Philippines by the 1980s it was extinct.
3. In truth, bats are industrious and invaluable members of the natural order spreading the seeds of hundreds of species of plants they help to insure diversity in local ecosystems.
4. Strange as it may sound, bats are essential to the economies of many countries they pollinate or seed many cash crops including bananas, figs, dates, vanilla beans, and avocados.
5. Many plants essential to such delicate ecosystems as the African savanna and the South American rain forest rely solely on bats for propagating the entire system could collapse if the bats disappear.

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