Name:

Date:

Facilitator:

School:

1.06 Run-ons and Fragments

**Part 1: Reading the passage**

You have seen how Frederick Douglass' paragraph contains clear, complete sentences. Now read this paragraph telling about a different mother. Notice the construction of the sentences:

My mom is a real pain, she's always on my case about something. For instance, I like to sleep late on cold winter mornings. Especially on school days. But does my mom ever let me stay in bed, snuggled under the covers, all warm and toasty? Not a chance. As soon as the alarm rings, she's yelling that I need to hurry and get washed up and dressed. Even though I'm still groggy. So I have to stumble out of my cozy bed and make my way to the cold bathroom to splash some freezing water on my face. Loads of fun. Then I get dressed and head to the kitchen, hoping to catch the scent of hot donuts or buttered sweet rolls. My favorites! But mom has weird ideas about what makes a good breakfast. She always plops down something "nutritious" in front of me, she forces me to eat whole-grain cereals and fresh fruit. And maybe an egg. If I complain about this boring breakfast, she always replies in the same way. She tells me to hurry up and eat or I'll be late for school. What a pain.

### Part 2: Checking the fragments and run-ons

A paragraph with some poorly constructed sentences—like the one you just read—can be revised to make the writing more effective. Let's check the sentences in this passage. Ask yourself these questions:

1. How many sentence fragments does this paragraph include?

2. How many run-on sentences does this paragraph have?

3. Could you revise this paragraph to create more effective sentences?

**Part 3: Revising the passage**

Clearly, some "sentences" in the paragraph are really fragments or run-ons. You can improve the paragraph by revising the sentences. Revise the paragraph in the box below using sentence combining and other strategies. Highlight your edits.

|  |
| --- |
| My mom is a real pain, she's always on my case about something. For instance, I like to sleep late on cold winter mornings. Especially on school days. But does my mom ever let me stay in bed, snuggled under the covers, all warm and toasty? Not a chance. As soon as the alarm rings, she's yelling that I need to hurry and get washed up and dressed. Even though I'm still groggy. So I have to stumble out of my cozy bed and make my way to the cold bathroom to splash some freezing water on my face. Loads of fun. Then I get dressed and head to the kitchen, hoping to catch the scent of hot donuts or buttered sweet rolls. My favorites! But mom has weird ideas about what makes a good breakfast. She always plops down something "nutritious" in front of me, she forces me to eat whole-grain cereals and fresh fruit. And maybe an egg. If I complain about this boring breakfast, she always replies in the same way. She tells me to hurry up and eat or I'll be late for school. What a pain. |