**1. Sentence Fragments**

A sentence fragment is a group of words punctuated like a complete sentence but lacking the necessary structure: it is only part of a sentence. Typically, a sentence fragment occurs when the group of words in question (1) lacks a subject, (2) lacks a predicate, or (3) is a subordinate (or dependent) clause.

To fix a sentence fragment, either turn it into an independent clause by providing whatever is missing – a subject or a predicate – or attach it to an independent clause upon which it can depend.

* **Original:** Also, the realization that they are more then just one person but are a representation of their ancestors disrespected before them.
* **Revision:**

**2. Comma Splices**

A comma splice consists of two independent clauses connected (“spliced”) with a comma. To fix a comma splice, you have three options: 1) Place a conjunction (such as *and* or *because*) between the clauses; 2) Place a semicolon between the clauses; or 3) Make the clauses into separate sentences.

* **Original:** The disappointment, the anger, the inability to change anything because the notion of how they can not be easily separated from their historical self, they are now in the spot where they can only be passive about their experience.
* **Revision:**

**3. Errors in Subject-Verb Agreement**

The subject and the verb must agree in number, a singular subject taking a singular verb and a plural subject taking a plural verb. Errors in subject-verb agreement usually occur when a writer misidentifies the subject or verb of a clause.

* **Original:** It is something that the African-Americans has to live with when being encountered with racism that is out of the control of their hands.
* **Revision:**

**4. Errors in Pronoun Reference**

This problem involves a lack of clarity about whom or what a pronoun (a word that substitutes for a noun – he, hers, their, they, it) refers to. The surest way to avoid difficulties is to make certain that the pronoun relates unambiguously to a specific word (known as the antecedent).

* **Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement:** A pronoun must agree in number (and gender) with the noun or noun phrase that it refers to.
  + **Original:** Several times throughout the novel, the text follows the subject of an anecdote even after their encounters with racism.
  + **Revision:**
* **Ambiguous Reference:** A pronoun should have only one possible antecedent. The possibility of two or more (or the lack of a referent at all) confuses relationships within the sentence.
* **Original:** The body can be a mechanism that helps the person learn and grow. It enables them to reflect on their experiences by thinking through it and learn from them by gaining control of their body and taking action against problems. Though it is the ultimate epiphany one can come to, Rankine acknowledges that it is a difficult, lengthy, confusing, and highly emotional process for most people.
  + **Revision:**

**6. Misplaced Modifiers**

Modifiers are words or groups of words used to qualify, limit, intensify, or explain some other element in the sentence. A misplaced modifier is a word or phrase that appears to modify the wrong word or words. You can avoid misplacing a modifier by makings sure that the word that immediately follows a clause is the *referent* of the clause (the thing the clause refers to).

* **Original:** Being written in a first person perspective, the reader is able to have themselves in the narrator’s shoes.
* **Revision:**

**7. Faulty Parallelism**

Faulty parallelism occurs when the components of a sentence do not grammatically match. Correct: We love writing, reading, and thinking. Incorrect: We love writing, reading, and to think.

* **Original:** Yet the poster child of nature’s abundance and undestroyable is in reality deformed and dying because of human overfishing and destruction of their habitat.
* **Revision:**

**8. Comma and Semicolon Errors**

Commas help distinguish the main clause from dependent elements, such as subordinate clauses or long prepositional phrases. They do not signify a pause, and should not separate two complete sentences without a conjunction (see #2). Semicolons separate two *complete sentences* without a conjunction.

* **Original:** The idea that the word is responsible for the pain people of color experience, is evident throughout the passage.
* **Revision:**
* **Original:** A task so simple, like sitting next to someone, defines the ownership of a body. The fact that speaking, sitting, any action is owned by someone else; this man.
* **Revision:**

**9. Diction Errors**

A diction error is an incorrect word choice. This can come in the form of choosing the wrong word, the wrong preposition, or just a word that doesn’t quite mean what you think it does.

* **Original:** Sebald seems to add these characteristics towards Saturn to express the point that all of humanity is simply decaying endlessly.
* **Revision:**