**Subjects and Predicates**

Remember, every sentence has two basic parts: a subject and a predicate.

Subject + predicate = sentence.

The subject tells whom or what the sentence is about.

The predicate tells what the subject is, or does, or what happens to the subject.

Huge cresting waves pound the sailboat.

Hurricane force winds tear the sails off the mast.

The fragile sailboat is thrown on its side.

**Complete Subjects and Predicates**

The complete subject includes the simple subject and all the words that modify or tell more about it.

The complete predicate includes the verb and all the words that modify or tell more about it.

**Example sentence:**

Disaster movies fascinate nearly everyone.

Complete subject: Ask who or what is or does something.

***What fascinates?*** Disaster movies

Complete predicate: Ask what the subject is or does or what happens to it.

***What do disaster movies do?*** Fascinate nearly everyone.

Disaster movies fascinate nearly everyone.

**Why does it matter in writing?**

Adding details to simple subjects and predicates can help you get your point across more clearly to the reader.

Draft, without complete subjects and predicates:

**Many of the Titanic's lifeboats were only half full. The crew was worried about the weight. It might break the winch ropes, spilling passengers into the sea.**

This is unclear.

Readers might be asking:

***Were the boats in the water at this point or not?***

***What about the weight - the weight of what?***

***What might break the winch ropes?***

***What is the connection between the first two sentences?***

Draft, with complete subjects and predicates:

**Many of the Titanic's lifeboats were lowered into the water only half full. The crew was worried about the weight of full lifeboats. The extra weight could break the winch ropes, spilling passengers into the sea.**

***Now, the paragraph makes more sense.***