What makes a good sentence? – Worksheet with answers

1. Is this a complete sentence?

   Answer Yes or No

   1. Thinking positively about solutions.

      No, incomplete – who is thinking? Needs a subject

   2. Plagiarism, using other people’s writing without referencing.

      No, incomplete – needs ‘is’ – needs a verb

   3. Plagiarism is cheating.

      Yes, complete – has subject – plagiarism and verb – is

   4. Simultaneously supported by national and international legislation

      No, incomplete – what is supported? – needs a subject, also needs a complete verb eg ‘is’ ‘has been’ ‘was’ to go with supported

2. Is this a single sentence?

   Answer Yes or No

   1. An essay should present an argument, consequently its content will make sense.

      No – ‘consequently, its content will make sense’ could be a sentence on its own. Consequently is known as a conjunctive or sentence adverb (like therefore and however) and shouldn’t come after a comma. Consequently is also known as a false conjunction. A conjunction is a word that lets you bring 2 sentences together such as but, and, because. False conjunctions such as nevertheless, therefore, however, then and consequently shouldn’t be used part way through a sentence.

   2. An essay should argue a case, so that its content makes sense.
Yes – ‘so that its content makes sense’ can’t stand on its own

3. Generally, arguments should build up through the essay, their conclusions should appear to lead on from thoughts already expressed.

No – ‘from their conclusions …’ could be another sentence

4. If an essay presents an argument, its content will make sense.

Yes – ‘if an essay presents an argument’ couldn’t be a sentence on its own.