Sentence Variety

There are four types of sentences available for your use in writing. Fragments are not included in the four because they are not sentences. To embed your writing with depth, interest, and clarity, AND to show the relationships between your ideas, use all four types of sentences at varied times.

1. **Simple sentence**: consists of ONE main or independent clause. Example:

There were many people at Comic-Con this year.

2. **Compound sentence**: consists of TWO or more main or independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction (nor, or, so, yet, for, and, but) and/or appropriate punctuation. Example:

There were many people at Comic-Con this year, so most sellers sold out of some of their items.

3. **Complex sentence**: consists of at least one main or independent clause, AND one or more subordinate or dependent clauses. Example:

Because there were many people at Comic-Con this year, many sellers sold out of some items.

 4. **Compound-Complex sentence**: consists of at least TWO main or independent clauses, and at least ONE subordinate or dependent clauses. Example:

Because there were many people at Comic-Con this year, many sellers sold out of some items, and the attendees waited eagerly while shelves were restocked.

Reasons to care about sentence variety:

1. You are supposed to be building ideas and arguments and showing the relationship between those ideas through your sentences. You're not just plopping words on a piece of paper. Keep in mind:
Coordinating conjunctions show relationships. *And, but, nor, yet, for, so, or* link ideas, but they also show how one idea is related to the other.

2. Compounding sentences shows there are at least two units of thought that could each stand on their own, but you're combining them/compounding them to show they are related and equal/parallel.

3. Complex sentences show that one idea depends on another in some way: a chronological development, a cause-and-effect relationship, a conditional relationship, etc. Creating complex sentences, where at least one idea is subordinate/dependent demonstrates this relationship between the ideas.