SECTION 2: DANGLELING MODIFIERS

Don't leave participle phrases dangling. Often participle phrases serve as the modifiers. When they do, they must be adjacent to the words they modify. They cannot be left dangling at the beginning of the sentence, as in this:

Having lowered its prices, customers are waiting in line to shop at Sears.

The phrase *Having lowered its prices* describes Sears, not the customers who shop there. You can fix this in two ways. You can rewrite the sentences so that the phrase is closer to the noun it modifies:

Having lowered its prices, Sears now has customers waiting in line to shop there.

Or you can rewrite the sentence and turn the phrase into a clause:

After Sears lowered its prices, customers had to wait in line to shop there.

Here are some more dangling phrases:

*Not:* Having been convicted of child molestation, the judge ordered Blakeley to stay away from children.

*But:* Having been convicted of child molestation, Blakeley was ordered to stay away from children.

*Or:* Because Blakeley had been convicted of child molestation, the judge ordered him to stay away from children.

*Not:* After receiving his MBA from Harvard, many companies offered him high-paying jobs.

*But:* After receiving his MBA from Harvard, he was offered many high-paying jobs.

*Or:* After he received his MBA from Harvard, many companies offered him high-paying jobs.

*Not:* After mixing the batter until it is smooth, nuts and chocolate chips are added.

*But:* After mixing the batter until it is smooth, add nuts and chocolate chips. *(The subject you is understood.)*

*Or:* After the batter is mixed until it is smooth, nuts and chocolate chips are added.