

## Section 1:

### #1 Opening Paragraph Strengths:

- Vivid sensory details with "gurgling of rocket engines" and "red lights pulsed ominously"
- Strong emotional tension established through physical symptoms of fear

Weaknesses: Overreliance on Physical Descriptions → Your opening relies heavily on external descriptions of fear rather than deeper psychological tension. Phrases like "heart dropped" and "frantic rhythm of his heartbeat" are common expressions that could be more nuanced.

Exemplar: "Rick's mind froze as the rocket engines growled to life, each thunderous pulse a reminder that his next decision could be his last."

### #2 Middle Scene (Marla's Warning) Strengths:

- Effective dialogue that reveals character dynamics
- Clear stakes established through the conflict between safety and responsibility

Weaknesses: Dialogue Tag Repetition → Your dialogue tags frequently default to "shouted" and "yelled," diluting their impact. The exchange between Rick and Marla uses "yelled back" and "shouted" multiple times.

Exemplar: "We can't leave it like this!" The words tore from his throat, barely audible above the engine's roar. "We need to shut it down!"

### #3 Climactic Moment Strengths:

- Strong pacing with short, punchy sentences
- Effective use of sensory details in the countdown sequence

Weaknesses: Rushed Resolution → Your climactic moment moves too quickly from crisis to temporary relief. The sequence "hit the shutdown button... the gurgling stopped" doesn't fully capitalise on the tension you've built.

Exemplar: "His finger slammed the shutdown button. One second stretched into eternity as the engines screamed in protest, before gradually, agonisingly, falling silent."

Actionable Task: Rewrite the climactic shutdown sequence (paragraph 9-10), focusing on extending the moment of uncertainty between Rick's action and its result. Include at least three specific details about the shutdown process.

## Overall Score: 43/50

### Section 2:

Rick's heart dropped as he heard the gurgling of the rocket engines. He was doomed. The countdown had started, and the control room's red lights pulsed ominously, matching the frantic rhythm of his heartbeat. He had just a few seconds to decide—stay and risk getting blasted to space dust or make a desperate dash for the exit. #1

He glanced at the console, where his fingers had typed in the last sequence moments before the alarm blared. It was supposed to be a routine test. But the calculations had been wrong, and the ignition sequence was live. With every passing second, the roar of the engines grew louder, drowning out his thoughts.

~~"Rick! What are you doing?" shouted Marla, his colleague, her face pale with panic. She was already halfway to the door, but he hesitated, torn between his instinct to flee and the urge to save their project.~~ ["Rick! What are you doing?" Marla's voice cracked with panic. She hovered by the door, but he remained rooted, torn between his instinct to flee and the urge to save their project.] #2

"We can't leave it like this!" he yelled back, adrenaline pumping through his veins. "We need to shut it down!"

Marla's eyes widened. "Are you insane? It's too late! We have to go!"

But Rick felt a surge of determination. They had worked for years on this project—their dream of creating the first sustainable rocket propulsion system. He couldn't let it end in flames, not like this.

He sprinted to the console, heart racing as he scrambled to remember the emergency shutdown procedure. With only moments to spare, he began inputting commands, fingers flying across the keys. The engine's gurgling intensified, a metallic growl that echoed through the room.

"Rick!" Marla screamed, her voice sharp with fear. "Get out now!"

~~"Just a few more seconds!" he shouted back, sweat trickling down his forehead. He could see the lights on the control panel flashing in warning, a countdown ticking down to zero.~~ ["Just a few more seconds!" The words caught in his throat as sweat stung his eyes. The control panel blazed with warning lights, each flash marking another precious second lost.] #3

Then, with a final keystroke, he hit the shutdown button. The engines roared, and for a heartbeat, he thought he had failed. But then, the gurgling stopped. The lights flickered, and silence enveloped the room.

Breathless, Rick turned to Marla, who was staring at him wide-eyed, a mix of relief and disbelief washing over her face. "You did it," she whispered, the tension in her shoulders easing.

But just as relief began to settle in, a deep rumble shook the building. The emergency sirens blared back to life, and Rick's heart sank anew. The reactor was unstable.

"Back to the exit!" he shouted, grabbing Marla's arm. They sprinted down the corridor, the ground trembling beneath them, knowing that the fight for survival was only just beginning.