

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph) Strengths:

- Strong personal connection established through first-hand experience
- Effective use of emotive language to convey the impact of music

Weaknesses: Underdeveloped thesis → Your opening argument would benefit from a more structured approach. Your statement "I believe that every child should play a musical instrument" could be strengthened by introducing specific benefits beyond calming down and focusing.

Exemplar: "I firmly believe that every child should have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, as it offers numerous benefits including emotional regulation, cognitive development, and enhanced focus."

#2 (Second paragraph) Strengths:

- Engaging use of rhetorical questions to connect with readers
- Clear explanation of the scientific basis (dopamine release)

Weaknesses: Limited evidence development → Your discussion about music's calming effects relies heavily on personal experience. The mention of dopamine could be expanded to create a more compelling argument with specific examples of how this chemical benefit impacts learning and development.

Exemplar: "Research has shown that playing music triggers dopamine release in our brains, leading not only to improved mood but also enhanced cognitive function and stress management skills that benefit children both in and out of the classroom."

#3 (Third paragraph) Strengths:

- Powerful use of a specific example
- Clear demonstration of music's impact on opportunities

Weaknesses: Connection gap → While your friend's story is compelling, you could strengthen the link between this example and your main argument about why all children should have this opportunity.

Exemplar: "My friend's journey from being a newcomer struggling with English to winning an international competition exemplifies how musical education can provide children with valuable opportunities for achievement and recognition, regardless of other challenges they may face."

Actionable Task: Rewrite your opening paragraph by creating a clear three-point thesis statement that outlines the main benefits of musical education (emotional, cognitive, and opportunity-based), which you can then develop throughout your essay.

Score: 40/50

Section 2:

~~#1 Should all children be given the opportunity to learn a musical instrument? I believe so. Every time I play an instrument I always calm down, and let the world pass by me like a rushing river. It helped me calm down when life was tough. This is why I believe that every child should play a musical instrument, because they can calm down easier and focus more on the things they need to do.~~ [Should all children be given the opportunity to learn a musical instrument? I believe so. Every time I play an instrument, I experience a sense of calm, letting the world pass by me like a rushing river. It helped me find peace when life was tough. This is why I believe that every child should play a musical instrument, as it helps them achieve emotional balance and improved focus on their daily tasks.]

~~#2 The first thing is that musical instruments can calm people down. Have you ever come back after a long stressful or upsetting day and come home, glad to see your violin? You can just play away without a care and eventually all of your fear and sadness will disappear.~~ [Firstly, musical instruments have a remarkable calming effect. Have you ever come back after a long, stressful or upsetting day and felt glad to see your violin? You can simply play away without a care, and gradually all your fear and sadness will disappear.] You see, music triggers our brain to produce dopamine, a chemical that makes us feel happy. ~~Feeling happy is a good thing as it can make you feel braver for the next day or even make you forget about all of the other things that had happened.~~ [This happiness builds resilience for facing future challenges and helps put difficult experiences into perspective.]

#3 Music can also give people, in this case children, more opportunity in ~~evens~~ [events] in concerts, plays and maybe even become celebrities. I have a friend that was like that. When he came to our school, he knew almost no English. Despite that and the trouble he faced daily, he was a master musician in violin. Even earlier this year he had won an international music competition of his age group. This is proof that by just playing a musical, people can make great accomplishments.

In conclusion, music is one of the best ways to both calm down and give people chances in life to be known to the public. From just humble beginnings as a child to the complicated adult life I

~~believe that~~ [I firmly believe] all people, not just children, should strive to learn a musical instrument.