

□ WRITING PIECE 1 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1 First paragraph: Strengths:

- Clear thesis statement introducing three main arguments
- Effective opening hook that draws readers in

Weakness: Limited development of claims → Your opening claims about fairness and global stability need more specific examples. The phrase "it promotes fairness" is too broad and needs concrete details about how exactly fairness is promoted.

Exemplar: *Rich countries should be required to help poorer nations because their current wealth often stems from historical exploitation of these regions, making it a moral imperative to address this imbalance through direct aid and support.*

#2 Second paragraph (about fairness): Strengths:

- Good historical context about colonisation
- Links past actions to present responsibilities

Weakness: Underdeveloped reasoning → Your argument about "using natural resources" and "trade" needs more specific examples. The phrase "built their wealth" is too general and would be stronger with real-world instances.

Exemplar: *For instance, many wealthy nations grew rich through centuries of tea and spice trades from India and Indonesia, while these source countries remained poor - creating a clear obligation for economic support today.*

#3 Final paragraph: Strengths:

- Strong practical suggestions for help
- Focuses on long-term solutions

Weakness: Lack of specific outcomes → Your discussion of "teaching skills" and "building infrastructure" needs concrete examples of success stories. The phrase "become independent" would be more convincing with real examples.

Exemplar: *By helping build schools, hospitals, and training centres, wealthy nations can empower poorer countries to develop their own successful industries and educational programmes.*

■ Your persuasive piece has a good basic structure but needs deeper development of your main arguments. You should expand on how exactly rich countries can help poor nations in practical ways. Also, your examples about global stability could include specific situations where aid prevented crises. Additionally, try to show more clearly how fairness connects to real-world outcomes. When discussing infrastructure and education, give examples of specific projects that could help. Your conclusion could be stronger by restating your main points with more impact. Remember to link each paragraph more smoothly to the next one.

Score: 41/50

Section 2:

Should Rich Countries Be Required to Help Poorer Nations?

#1 Yes, rich countries should be required to help poorer nations. ~~This is because it promotes fairness, helps maintain global stability, and ensures that everyone has a chance to live a better life.~~ [Rich countries must help poorer nations to promote fairness, maintain global stability, and ensure everyone has the opportunity for a better life.] Wealthy nations have the resources and technology to support struggling countries, and it is their responsibility to do so.

#2 One important reason is fairness. ~~Many rich countries have built their wealth by using natural resources, trade, and labor from other parts of the world.~~ [Many wealthy nations have accumulated their riches through extensive use of global natural resources, international trade, and labour from developing regions.] Some even became wealthy through ~~colonization~~ [colonisation], which left many nations in poverty. Since these richer countries have benefited from global resources, they have a duty to give back and support those who are struggling. Providing aid is not just about kindness; it is about justice and making the world more equal.

Another reason is that helping poorer nations makes the world more stable. Poverty often leads to serious problems like war, disease, and refugee crises, which can affect the entire world. For example, when people do not have access to food, clean water, or education, they may be forced to migrate to other countries, leading to overpopulation and conflicts. By supporting poorer nations with aid, education, and healthcare, rich countries can prevent these issues and create a safer, more peaceful world.

#3 Finally, rich countries have the ability to make a real difference. ~~Instead of just donating money, they can help poorer nations develop strong economies, improve education systems, and provide healthcare.~~ [Beyond monetary donations, wealthy nations can assist poorer countries in developing robust economies, strengthening education systems, and establishing healthcare infrastructure.] Teaching skills, building infrastructure, and supporting local businesses can help these nations become independent and successful in the long run.

In conclusion, wealthier nations should be required to help poorer countries because it is fair, helps maintain global stability, and creates opportunities for a better future. By working together, we can create a world where everyone has the chance to thrive.

□ WRITING PIECE 2 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1: "Think about it. Many of us don't use our brains to think of basic equations or questions that even a Year 3 could answer in his own head."

Strengths:

- Good opening hook that directly engages the reader
- Clear example that young readers can relate to

Weakness: Limited development → Your opening paragraph introduces the topic but quickly moves to examples without building a strong foundation for your argument. The phrase "think about it" could be developed further to set up your main points about smartphone dependency.

Exemplar: ***Consider this: In today's digital age, we increasingly rely on smartphones instead of our own mental abilities - even for the simplest tasks that a young student can solve mentally.***

#2: "It's like going to the gym but never lifting any weights because you use a machine to do it for you."

Strengths:

- Excellent use of analogy that makes the concept easier to understand
- Effectively connects to readers' experiences

Weakness: Underdeveloped comparison → Your analogy about the gym could be expanded to show more clearly how mental exercise relates to smartphone use. The comparison feels incomplete without showing specific impacts.

Exemplar: ***Just as your muscles become weak when you rely too much on machines at the gym, your brain loses its power when you depend on smartphones for every little task.***

#3: "If her phone broke, she wouldn't be able to remember anyone's number!"

Strengths:

- Personal example makes the argument more relatable
- Shows a clear consequence of over-reliance on phones

Weakness: Surface-level example → Your friend's experience with phone numbers needs more detail about why this memory loss matters in daily life. The exclamation mark makes it feel less serious than your argument deserves.

Exemplar: *Without her phone, my friend would struggle to contact anyone in an emergency, showing how dependent we've become on our devices instead of our memory.*

■ Your piece makes interesting points about smartphone use, but needs stronger evidence to support your claims. You could improve your argument by adding more real-life examples that show how smartphone dependency affects daily activities. Also, try to show both sides of the argument more clearly - while you mention smartphones can "boost learning," you could explain exactly how they help us learn. Additionally, your piece would be stronger if you added clear topic sentences at the start of each paragraph to guide your readers through your argument. Your conclusion could be more powerful by giving readers specific ways to balance smartphone use with mental exercise. Focus on making your examples more detailed and connected to your main argument about smartphones making us less capable of thinking independently.

Score: 41/50

Section 2:

Are smartphones making us dumber?

#1 ~~Think about it.~~ [Think carefully about this question.] Many of us don't use our brains to think of basic equations or questions that even a Year 3 could answer in his own head. For example, people use calculators just to add up how much their groceries cost. This might seem like a small thing, but it's happening all the time.

Instead of using our brains to solve simple problems, we rely on technology to do it for us. Smartphones, in particular, have made it even easier to avoid thinking for ourselves. We can look up anything we don't know, whether it's the answer to a math question or the meaning of a word. While this is helpful in some ways, it also means we're not exercising our minds as much.

#2 ~~It's like going to the gym but never lifting any weights because you use a machine to do it for you.~~ [Just as athletes need to challenge their muscles without always relying on machines, we need to exercise our brains without constant help from smartphones.] Over time, our brains might get lazy. Even though smartphones can help us learn new things, they can also make us forget things we already know.

If we're constantly looking things up on our phones, we stop trying to remember things on our own. #3 For example, my friend used to be really good at remembering phone numbers, but now she just stores them all in her phone ~~forgetting~~ [and has forgotten] everybody's phone number. If her phone broke, she wouldn't be able to remember anyone's number!

Smartphones aren't all bad—they can boost learning and productivity when used right. The issue comes when we rely on them too much and let them do the thinking for us. Over time, this can make us mentally lazy, like always using a calculator instead of doing simple math in our heads. While phones are helpful, we shouldn't let them replace the mental exercise that keeps our brains sharp. It's all about finding a balance between using tech and exercising our minds.

□ WRITING PIECE 3

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph about sleep needs) Strengths:

- Clear opening statement that directly addresses the main argument
- Good connection between sleep deprivation and its effects on learning

Weaknesses: Underdeveloped reasoning → Your explanation about sleep deprivation's impact could be more detailed. Phrases like "it can make them feel tired and distracted" and "may find it harder to focus" are too basic and don't fully explore the consequences.

Exemplar: *Research confirms that inadequate sleep severely impacts teenagers' academic performance, leading to poor concentration during morning lessons and decreased ability to retain new information throughout the school day.*

#2 (Paragraph about teachers) Strengths:

- Links teacher wellbeing to student learning outcomes
- Considers multiple stakeholders in the argument

Weaknesses: Weak evidence support → Your points about teacher benefits lack specific examples. The phrase "can teach better and keep students more engaged" needs more concrete details about how this would actually happen.

Exemplar: *Well-rested teachers arrive at school energised and prepared, allowing them to deliver more engaging lessons with creative activities and respond more effectively to students' individual learning needs.*

#3 (Paragraph about family benefits) Strengths:

- Addresses practical daily concerns
- Shows understanding of family dynamics

Weaknesses: Informal tone → Your writing includes casual phrases like "scared to be scolded" and "way more calmer" that weaken your formal argument.

Exemplar: *A later start time would enable families to establish healthier morning routines, ensuring students arrive at school properly nourished and mentally prepared for the day ahead.*

■ Your persuasive piece presents valid arguments for later school start times, but needs stronger development of each point. You could improve the first paragraph by giving specific examples of how poor sleep affects learning. In the teacher section, try adding details about specific ways

teachers could use their extra morning time. Your family benefits paragraph would be more convincing if you described a typical rushed morning routine and compared it to a more relaxed one. Additionally, try connecting your ideas more smoothly between paragraphs. Also, consider addressing possible counterarguments to strengthen your position. Your conclusion could be stronger by summarising your main points more clearly.

Score: 40/50

Section 2:

Should school start later?

Schools should start later in the morning for several important reasons, especially because students need more sleep. #1 Research shows that teenagers need about 8 to 10 hours of sleep every night, but with early school start times, many students don't get enough rest. When students don't sleep enough, it can make them feel tired and distracted during school. This means they may find it harder to focus, learn, or remember things, and it can also affect their mood, making them feel stressed or grumpy.

#2 Starting school later would also be helpful for teachers. Teachers need rest too, and when they are well-rested, they can teach better and keep students more engaged. Well-rested teachers can create a more positive learning environment and manage their classrooms more effectively. Teachers are also less likely to feel stressed or burned out if they have more time in the morning to prepare for their lessons.

#3 Another reason schools should start later is because it could help families. ~~With later start times, students would have more time in the morning to eat a healthy breakfast and get ready without rushing out of the door, scared to be scolded by his teacher~~ [Later start times would allow students to eat a healthy breakfast and prepare for school calmly, without fear of arriving late]. This could ~~reduce stress for both students and parents, making the start of the day way more calmer~~ [create a less stressful morning routine for both students and parents, resulting in a calmer start to the day]. Also, having more time after school could give students a chance to participate in sports or after-school activities without feeling too exhausted.

In conclusion, starting school later would be a great way to help students get ~~much more~~ [sufficient] sleep, improve their focus and health, and support teachers in doing their best work everyday as they would not have to wake up so early in the morning. It would also make mornings easier for families, leading to a better and more balanced school day for everyone.