

□ WRITING PIECE 1 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1: "She felt the ridges of the map she was carving and wondered if the storms below still whispered secrets to those who dared listen. Elis delicately traced the intricate, etched lines of her weathered map, her fingertips grazing the jagged grooves that delineated the uncharted territories bordering the desolate kingdom of Asgard."

Strengths:

- Rich sensory details through tactile descriptions
- Strong world-building through specific geographical references

Weakness: Limited character depth → Your opening focuses heavily on physical actions without revealing Elis's emotional connection to the map-carving. Phrases like "felt the ridges" and "delicately traced" tell us what she's doing but not why it matters to her.

Exemplar: ***Her hands trembled as she carved each ridge into the map, each line representing not just land, but her chance to prove the whispers she'd heard since childhood weren't mere imagination.***

#2: "For decades, the tyrant leaders of Asgard denied conspiracies of storms whispering, calling it impossible, but Elise wasn't satisfied. She had been born during the Night of Whispers when the storms sang louder than before."

Strengths:

- Creates compelling backstory
- Establishes clear conflict between character and authority

Weakness: Underdeveloped world-building → Your mention of "Night of Whispers" needs more detail about its significance. The phrase "storms sang louder than before" leaves readers wondering about the normal state of these storms.

Exemplar: ***The Night of Whispers had marked her birth seventeen years ago, when the storm's song grew so powerful it shattered every window in Asgard - a sign the elders tried desperately to forget.***

#3: "Would she find salvation for her people—or lose herself to the storm's call?"

Strengths:

- Powerful closing question
- Creates tension about future events

Weakness: Rushed stakes → Your ending introduces the idea of "salvation for her people" suddenly, without earlier hints about what dangers they face.

Exemplar: *As the storms called to her once again, Elis wondered if uncovering their secrets would save her people from Asgard's tyranny - or if the price of truth would be her own sanity.*

■ Your narrative shows promise in creating an intriguing magical world with storms that whisper secrets. You've built good tension around Elis's special connection to these storms. To make your story stronger, try adding more details about what's at stake for the people of Asgard earlier in the narrative. Show us why Elis feels she must risk everything to uncover these secrets. Give us more hints about how the storms affect daily life in this world. Think about adding small details that show how other characters react to the storms - do they fear them? Worship them? This will help readers understand why Elis's quest matters so much.

Actionable task: Rewrite the opening paragraph focusing on Elis's emotional connection to the storms and add specific details about how they affect life in Asgard.

Score: 40/50

Section 2:

#1: She felt the ridges of the map she was carving and wondered if the storms below still whispered secrets to those who dared listen. Elis [Ellis] delicately traced the intricate, etched lines of her weathered map, her fingertips grazing the jagged grooves that delineated the uncharted territories bordering the desolate kingdom of Asgard.

#2: ~~For decades, the tyrant leaders of Asgard denied conspiracies of storms whispering, calling it impossible, but Elise wasn't satisfied.~~ [For decades, the tyrant leaders of Asgard had denied the existence of whispering storms, declaring such claims impossible, but Ellis remained unconvinced.] She had been born during the Night of Whispers when the storms sang louder than before. It was said children born that night carried the mark of the storm in their veins. Whether it was a curse or a gift, she didn't know.

One night, forces powered by dark magic seemed to encompass the uncharted territories, thus locals turned to Asgard's rulers, but ~~Ellis~~ [Ellis] knew better. The storms held secrets—ones only she could uncover. Her fingers trembled as she marked the next point on her map. The path was dangerous, and the storms' whispers grew louder with every decision. Each step forward seemed to pull her deeper into their grasp, blurring the line between her thoughts and theirs.

#3: Would she find salvation for her people—or lose herself to the storm's call?

□ WRITING PIECE 2 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1: "In the soft glow of the alien sunset, the crowd gasped at the intricate sculpture, unaware it was created by the one thing they feared most." Strengths:

- Your opening line creates immediate intrigue and mystery
- Your use of sensory details effectively sets the scene

Weakness: Limited Context → Your opening line leaves readers wondering what "the one thing they feared most" refers to. While mystery is good, your readers need some grounding. The phrase "one thing they feared most" is too vague this early in the narrative.

Exemplar: *In the soft glow of the alien sunset, the crowd gasped at the intricate sculpture, unaware it was created by a Calyran—their sworn enemy.*

#2: "Her brother, a notorious symbol of tyranny, had sculpted it, a labour of passion shaped in secrecy over countless nights in the obsidian caves beyond the settlement's borders." Strengths:

- Your contrast between tyranny and passion adds depth to the character
- Your detail about the obsidian caves builds the world naturally

Weakness: Character Development Gap → Your introduction of the brother as a "symbol of tyranny" needs more backing. You mention his artistic side but don't show why he's considered tyrannical. This leaves your character feeling flat.

Exemplar: *Her brother, branded a tyrant for defending ancient Calyran traditions, had sculpted it with loving care over countless nights in the obsidian caves.*

#3: "Would she stay silent, or speak up, threatening her tribe's existence?" Strengths:

- Your ending creates genuine tension
- Your moral dilemma feels meaningful

Weakness: Rushed Resolution → Your final question feels abrupt after the detailed build-up. The stakes are clear but the lead-up to this moment could be stronger. The phrase "threatening her tribe's existence" needs more foundation.

Exemplar: *As whispers grew into demands, Kyra's heart raced—her answer could either preserve their secrecy or finally bridge two worlds, but at what cost?*

■ Your narrative shows promise in building an intriguing world with complex social tensions. You've created a fascinating premise about art bridging cultural divides. However, you could

deepen the conflict by showing more of the settlers' perspective and why they fear Calyran technology so deeply. Consider developing the relationship between Kyra and her brother earlier in the story. Your world-building details about the twin moons and obsidian caves are lovely touches, but you could weave them more naturally into the action. Try focusing more on Kyra's emotional journey throughout the piece to help readers connect with her dilemma.

Actionable task: Rewrite the middle section focusing on one specific memory Kyra has of her brother using Calyran technology for good, to strengthen the emotional core of your story.

Score: 42/50

Section 2:

#1 In the soft glow of the alien sunset, the crowd gasped at the intricate sculpture, unaware it was created by the one thing they feared most. The crowd gathered in hushed awe as the sculpture glistened under Calyra's twin moons. The crystalline figure seemed to breathe, its angular edges capturing the moonlight in an ethereal display.

#2 ~~No one knew who had crafted it. The settlers whispered theories, ranging from rogue artists to divine intervention. In the shadows of the market square, Kyra watched, her breath shallow.~~ [While speculation about its creator ran wild—from rogue artists to divine intervention—Kyra watched from the shadows of the market square, her breath shallow.] Her brother, a notorious symbol of tyranny, had sculpted it, a labour of passion shaped in secrecy over countless nights in the obsidian caves beyond the settlement's borders.

She had used forbidden tech—an ancient Calyran device capable of transforming matter with exquisite precision, guided by the emotions of its wielder. The settlers had banned such tools decades ago, deeming them too dangerous to remain in use, though they had never truly understood them. To the settlers, the Calyrans were a menace, their culture was purged and reduced to little more than rumours and warnings.

Kyra and her brother, the last of their kind, knew the truth. Their people had once created wonders like this sculpture to celebrate harmony and life—not destruction. But she feared the settlers would never see it that way.

#3 A raspy voice rose within the cacophonous murmurs of the crowd. "Who created this?" In the distance, there she stood, trembling with the fear of witnessing the end of her remaining tribe members. Would she stay silent, or speak up, threatening her tribe's existence?

□ INTERVIEW

Section 1:

#1 (First interview answer about family shaping challenges) Strengths:

- Provides a concrete personal example about test preparation
- Shows clear connection between family support and personal growth

Weaknesses: Limited depth in describing the learning process → Your response focuses mainly on the outcome rather than detailing how your father's guidance specifically helped you develop resilience. The phrase "dedicated time to studying with me" could be expanded to show the actual strategies and mindset changes that occurred.

Exemplar: *When I struggled with my test scores, my father spent evenings teaching me effective study techniques and helping me build a growth mindset. Through his patient guidance, I learned that challenges are opportunities to develop new approaches to learning.*

#2 (Second interview answer about family tradition) Strengths:

- Links family values to concrete community actions
- Shows understanding of broader impact beyond family

Weaknesses: Generalised description of community service → Your response mentions "various capacities" and "environmental clean-up initiatives" without sharing specific memorable experiences or emotional impact. The phrase "serves as a reinforcement" feels distant rather than personal.

Exemplar: *Our monthly neighbourhood clean-up drives have taught me invaluable lessons. Last summer, whilst collecting litter at the local park, I witnessed how our family's dedication inspired other families to join our initiative.*

#3 (Third interview answer about family inspiration) Strengths:

- Clear connection between father's experience and personal growth
- Includes specific example of applying father's teachings

Weaknesses: Limited exploration of emotional impact → Your response touches on but doesn't deeply examine how your father's guidance shaped your emotional resilience. The phrase "transform challenges into opportunities" needs more personal context.

Exemplar: *My father's journey taught me that setbacks aren't failures but stepping stones. When faced with rejection, his guidance helped me channel my disappointment into motivation, leading me to develop stronger leadership skills.*

■ Your responses would benefit from more detailed personal anecdotes and emotional depth. Consider sharing specific conversations, moments, or situations that illustrate your family's influence. Add more details about how these experiences changed your perspective and behaviour. Try to expand your answers by including more examples of how you apply these family lessons in your daily life.

Score: /50

Section 2:

How has your family shaped the way you approach challenges in life? Can you give a specific example? ~~My family instilled in me the importance of resilience and efficiency when facing challenges, and they taught me to never procrastinate.~~ [My family has instilled in me the importance of resilience and efficiency when facing challenges, teaching me to never procrastinate.] They emphasiz[s]ed that success demands action and hard work. This became especially clear to me when I struggled to achieve the marks I wanted for a test. After sharing my concerns with my parents, my father dedicated time to studying with me, reinforcing the belief that persistence and determination are key to success. It was tough, but with their unwavering support and motivation, I not only met my expectations but surpassed them! In summary, my parents are the driving force behind my achievements, and their invaluable lessons have shaped my journey. #1

What is one tradition or habit in your family that you cherish the most, and why? A meaningful tradition within my family that holds significant importance is our strong commitment to community service. This practice extends beyond a mere routine; it serves as a reinforcement of our shared values of selfless service, compassion, and humility. Our efforts are directed towards assisting members of our community in various capacities, ranging from environmental clean-up initiatives to maintenance support. This tradition not only fosters deeper bonds within our family but also allows us to give back to the community that provides for us. It serves as a constant reminder of the values of kindness and assistance towards others, ultimately instilling a sense of purpose and fulfilment in our lives. #2

Who in your family inspires you the most, and what lessons have you learned from them? My father is my most significant source of inspiration, largely due to his optimistic perspective on life and his resilient character. Despite encountering initial criticism and discrimination in his workplace, his unwavering resilience ultimately led him to rise to the highest levels within his profession, showcasing the impact of a positive attitude. His philosophy is straightforward yet powerful: "Each day should be spent accordingly." Observing him transform challenges into

opportunities has profoundly influenced my outlook on life. For instance, when I faced rejection for a leadership position at school, he framed it as a chance for personal growth. This mindset encouraged me to reassess my goals, ultimately leading to even greater achievements. From my father, I have learned that resilience transcends mere endurance; it involves discovering beauty and hope, even amidst the most difficult circumstances. #3