

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."

Strengths:

- Vivid sensory details through tactile description of map ridges
- Creates intrigue through metaphorical connection between storms and secrets

Weakness: Limited context establishment → Your opening line, while poetic, leaves readers uncertain about the setting and character. The phrase "storms below" needs grounding in a specific place or time to help readers understand the world you're building.

Exemplar: *She traced her fingers along the ridges of the ancient map she was carving, sensing how the violent storms that raged through the valley below held secrets only the bravest souls dared to uncover.*

#2: "The carpenter is almost upon the life-changing discovery of an ancient artefact that could save the village from poverty."

Strengths:

- Clear stakes established through the artefact's importance
- Strong conflict setup between personal gain and community needs

Weakness: Passive voice construction → Your use of "is almost upon" distances readers from the action. The phrase "could save the village" needs more emotional weight to show why this matters to your character.

Exemplar: *With trembling hands, she uncovered the final clues leading to the ancient artefact - her village's last hope for survival.*

#3: "The oil-fracking company could potentially get all the oil located in her country, which would leave her village in financial ruin."

Strengths:

- Clear antagonist introduction

- Strong environmental and social themes

Weakness: Underdeveloped conflict → Your presentation of the oil company needs more specific details about their actions. The phrase "could potentially get all the oil" feels too vague to create tension.

Exemplar: *The ruthless oil-fracking company had already begun drilling at the village borders, their machines threatening to destroy both the land and the ancient secret buried beneath it.*

■ Your narrative presents compelling themes about community responsibility versus personal ambition. The conflict between traditional values and modern development offers rich storytelling potential. However, you need to ground your character's emotional journey more deeply in specific moments and choices. Consider adding more details about your carpenter's relationship with her village and family. Show us specific moments that demonstrate why staying matters so much to her. Your story could benefit from clearer connections between the map, the artefact, and the oil company's threats.

Actionable task: Rewrite the opening paragraph focusing on establishing a stronger connection between your character's map-carving skills and her emotional ties to the village.

Score: 41/50

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. ~~A skilled carpenter is~~ [The skilled carpenter was] offered a prized position at the prestigious International Institute of Trades ~~that had~~ [which had] unlimited resources that could provide everything for her successful career. However, her family ~~begs~~ [begged] her to stay behind and support the poverty-stricken village she grew up in.

#2 ~~The carpenter is almost upon~~ [She drew closer to] the life-changing discovery of an ancient artefact that could save the village from poverty. The greedy, selfish oil-fracking company that ~~operates~~ [operated] in her village ~~is~~ [was] onto her maps, and might steal the artefact for themselves before she could get to it. She ~~is~~ [was] the only person in her family who ~~is~~ [was] skilled in trade, and ~~is~~ [was] essentially the lifeline for them.

#3 If she left for the Institute of Trades, her family would be left to perish. The maps she carved could show her secrets that could save everyone she loved, or she could go to a career-defining institute of a carpenter's dream. The oil-fracking company could potentially get all the oil located

in her country, which would leave her village in financial ruin. ~~Rumours had been going around~~
[Whispers spread through the village] that the oil was becoming scarce.

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 through vivid imagery
- Your use of dramatic irony effectively draws readers in

Weakness: Limited context → While your opening line is captivating, you don't build upon the alien setting or explain what "the one thing they feared most" refers to. The sentence stands alone without connecting to the rest of your narrative.

Exemplar: *In the soft glow of the alien sunset, the crowd gathered around the intricate sculpture, their gasps of wonder turning to whispers of horror as they realised it bore the unmistakable mark of their greatest fear - creativity.*

#2 "Alice lives in the dystopian society, where all creativity is looked down upon and is chastised." Strengths:

- Your introduction of the main conflict is clear
- Your establishment of the dystopian setting is direct

Weakness: Telling rather than showing → You simply state the society's stance on creativity instead of revealing it through details or examples. The phrase "looked down upon and is chastised" could be more specific about how the society responds to creativity.

Exemplar: *In Alice's world, blank walls stretched endlessly through identical streets, while security drones hunted for any trace of individual expression.*

#3 "Soon Alice creates artworks of all media, always ignoring the many bruises she bore from chastisement, and hence she starts the Dystopian Renaissance." Strengths:

- Your ending shows character growth
- Your concept of a "Dystopian Renaissance" is unique

Weakness: Rushed development → You jump to the conclusion without showing Alice's journey. The phrase "creates artworks of all media" needs more detail about her artistic evolution and how she sparked this renaissance.

Exemplar: *Despite the welts on her back, Alice's hands moved with growing confidence across canvas, clay, and stone, each piece of forbidden art inspiring whispered conversations of change throughout the grey city.*

■ Your narrative presents an engaging premise about creativity in a dystopian world. You need to develop the alien setting you hint at in your opening line, as this unique element disappears from the story. Try to show how Alice discovers different art forms gradually rather than suddenly becoming proficient in all media. Your story would benefit from more details about how other citizens react to her art beyond just punishment. Consider adding dialogue to bring your characters to life. The concept of a Dystopian Renaissance deserves more exploration of how art begins to change your society.

Actionable task: Rewrite the middle section of your narrative focusing on one specific artwork Alice creates, showing both her creative process and the varied reactions it provokes from different members of society.

Score: 39/50

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.

#2 ~~Alice lives~~ [Alice lived] in the dystopian society, where all creativity ~~is~~ [was] looked down upon and ~~is~~ [was] chastised. Alice ~~has~~ [had] never known how things were before, and ~~has~~ [had] never known the truth about creativity. Her mind ~~is~~ [was] crawling with bright, vivid thoughts in the monotone of uniformity in her community. She ~~knows~~ [knew] she ~~is~~ [was] different, but ~~doesn't~~ [didn't] know how.

One day she ~~creates~~ [created] an intricate sculpture by using a sharp stick and carving something from the candle wax from her bedside table. She ~~is~~ [was] intrigued by it, and ~~brings~~ [brought] it with her everyday, but then her parents ~~see~~ [saw] it and the rumour ~~spreads~~ [spread]. She ~~takes~~ [took] beatings and ~~is~~ [was] chastised, but never ~~understands~~ [understood] what she ~~has~~ [had] done ~~is~~ [was] wrong.

#3 A feeling she ~~has~~ [had] never felt before ~~grows~~ [grew] inside her and ~~breaks~~ [broke] through the uniformity of the world. Soon Alice ~~creates~~ [created] artworks of all media, always ignoring the many bruises she bore from chastisement, and hence she ~~starts~~ [started] the Dystopian Renaissance.

INTERVIEW

Section 1:

#1 "I have a younger brother, and he can sometimes be quite irritating. Sometimes I might lose my temper and become very angry. However, my parents would tell me: 'You can't make others do what you want, but you can control yourself.'"

Strengths:

- Shows personal growth through family dynamics
- Effectively demonstrates how parental guidance shapes behaviour

Weakness: Limited reflection on the impact → Your response focuses on describing the situation but doesn't delve into how this advice changed your actions or thinking in other life situations beyond sibling interactions.

I learned that controlling my emotions isn't just useful with my brother - it helps me handle challenging situations at school and with friends. For example, when group projects don't go as planned, I remember to focus on what I can control instead of getting frustrated with others.

#2 "One love that we all share is watching Axing (the food critic) eat food from all over China, as our family has not gone back to China in a long time. The show really brings us together."

Strengths:

- Creates a clear picture of family bonding
- Shows cultural connection maintenance

Weakness: Surface-level discussion → Your answer touches on watching the show but doesn't explore the deeper meaning of this tradition in maintaining cultural ties and family relationships.

Through watching Axing's food tours, we not only spend quality time together but also keep our connection to Chinese culture alive. It sparks conversations about our family history and helps me understand my parents' experiences growing up in China.

#3 "The conditions were horrible, and she was bullied because of how thin she was. But she kept on studying, which brought her to a good university in the city."

Strengths:

- Shows clear admiration for mother's resilience
- Provides specific details about challenges faced

Weakness: Incomplete connection to personal impact → Your response could better link your mother's experiences to specific ways they have shaped your own approach to difficulties.

My mother's journey from facing bullying to achieving academic success teaches me that persistence pays off. When I struggle with difficult subjects or feel discouraged, I think about how she overcame much bigger obstacles.

■ Your responses would benefit from more detailed examples of how these family influences affect your daily life and decision-making. Try to expand each answer by including specific situations where family values or lessons have guided your actions. Add more details about your emotional growth and personal development through these family experiences. Consider mentioning how these experiences might shape your future goals or aspirations.

Score: 42/50

Section 2:

#1 How has your family shaped the way you approach challenges in life? Can you give a specific example?

My family, especially my parents, has shaped the way I approach challenges in life. I have a younger brother, and he can sometimes be quite irritating. ~~Sometimes I might lose my temper and become very angry.~~ [At times, I would lose my temper and become very angry.] However, my parents would tell me: "You can't make others do what you want, but you can control yourself." ~~This piece of advice is very useful, because in times when you might have very strong negative feelings against someone, you'll be able to understand, you can't tell them what to do, but you can do what you want.~~ [This advice proves invaluable when dealing with strong negative feelings towards others, as it helps me understand that while I cannot control their actions, I can control my responses.] So instead of yelling or shouting, sometimes it's best to change your own attitude, otherwise you're just harming yourself.

#2 What is one tradition or habit in your family that you cherish the most, and why?

~~A tradition or habit in my family that I cherish the most is when we watch Chinese Food Tour.~~ [The tradition I cherish most in my family is watching Chinese Food Tour together.] My parents are both from China so they value Chinese food. One love that we all share is watching Axing (the food critic) eat food from all over China, as our family has not gone back to China in a long time. The show really brings us together.

#3 Who in your family inspires you the most, and what lessons have you learned from them?

My mother inspires me the most because of how hard-working she is. She came from a poor

family that lived in the country with three older brothers. When she was my age she was already living in a boarding school, because she lived so far away from the city. The conditions were horrible, and she was bullied because of how thin she was. But she kept on studying, which brought her to a good university in the city. Afterwards, she moved to Australia with my father, where I was born. She inspires me to work hard, as effort will always be rewarded.