

## □ WRITING PIECE 1 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph): Strengths:

- Strong emotional appeal through vivid description of children's struggles
- Clear introduction of the main argument about rich countries' responsibility

Weaknesses: Missing specific examples → Your opening lacks concrete examples of how children are affected. Phrases like "unable to access basic healthcare" and "receive the education they deserve" need real-life examples to make your point stronger.

Exemplar: ***"Imagine a world where millions of children go to bed hungry - like the 3.1 million children in Yemen who cannot access enough food to survive, or the countless others unable to receive basic medicines for easily treatable illnesses."***

#2 (Second paragraph): Strengths:

- Good explanation of rich countries' capabilities
- Links support to long-term benefits

Weaknesses: Underdeveloped arguments → Your points about "advanced technology and infrastructure" are not fully explained. You mention they "can make a real difference" but don't show how. Your writing needs to give clear examples of how these resources help.

Exemplar: ***"Wealthier nations can provide vital support through their advanced medical technology, like mobile health clinics that bring doctors to remote villages, and their expertise in building schools that give children better futures."***

#3 (Third paragraph): Strengths:

- Good use of statistics
- Clear explanation of poverty cycle

Weaknesses: Poor paragraph structure → Your ideas jump between different points without clear links. The World Bank statistic comes suddenly without a proper lead-in. Your writing moves quickly from "technological amenities" to "poverty cycle" without showing how they connect.

Exemplar: *"The stark reality of global inequality is clear: while people in wealthy nations enjoy modern amenities, World Bank data shows that 8.5% of people worldwide - mostly in developing regions - struggle to survive on less than \$2.15 per day."*

■ Your piece makes important points about helping poor countries, but needs more depth to be truly convincing. Add real examples of how rich countries have helped poor nations in the past. Talk more about what happens when countries work together. Also, include more details about what poor countries need most. You can make your writing stronger by explaining each idea fully before moving to the next one. Break down big ideas into smaller parts that are easier to understand. Your paragraphs need better connections - try using words like 'furthermore' or 'moreover' to link your ideas. Focus on making your arguments clearer by giving examples that young readers can understand.

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**Score: 41/50**

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Section 2:

#1 Imagine a world where millions of children go to bed hungry, unable to access basic healthcare, or receive the education they deserve all because their country lacks the resources to provide these essentials. It's heartbreaking to think about, yet this is the reality for millions in poorer nations. ~~Rich countries, with their vast resources, must be required to step in and help.~~ [Wealthy nations, with their vast resources, have a responsibility to step in and help.]

#2 ~~When you think of it, wealthier~~ [Wealthier] nations are in a unique position to provide support. They possess not only the financial resources but also advanced technology and infrastructure that can make a real difference. By investing in poorer nations' economies, rich countries can help improve healthcare systems, create jobs, and provide educational opportunities. This leads to stronger, more stable economies in the long run, benefiting everyone through global trade and partnerships.

#3 ~~Richer countries have most of the power in the world, and they are the societies that are able to boost poorer countries.~~ [Wealthy nations hold significant global influence and have the capacity to uplift developing countries.] Many third world countries are unable to develop, and ethically, everyone should be able to live a safe and happy life with all of the technological amenities as other people in other countries like what we want. ~~If richer countries don't help though~~ [Without assistance from wealthy nations], poorer countries will continue to be stuck in the cycle of poverty, and economic distress. According to World Bank data, a significantly higher percentage of people live in extreme poverty in third world countries compared to first world countries, with

the majority of extreme poverty concentrated in Sub-Saharan Africa; around 8.5% of the global population lives on less than \$2.15 per day, which means that one in every ten people are on the extreme poverty line. This must be stopped, and it can be intervened by richer countries investing into the economy of poorer countries.

In conclusion, richer countries must be required to help poorer countries, as it stops the long-lasting cycle of poverty, and because investing in poorer nations' economies provides more opportunities for the youth of those countries.

## □ WRITING PIECE 2 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1: "Smartphones are making our young generations dumber, and that is an inevitable fact. Don't you want our young to be able to live a life good enough to be able to change the world in the future?"

Strengths:

- Your opening uses an engaging rhetorical question to grab readers' attention
- Your writing shows passion about the topic through strong word choices

Weakness: Unsupported claim → Your statement lacks specific evidence to support "inevitable fact." You use emotional appeal without backing up your point. The phrase "life good enough" is too vague to be convincing.

***Consider: "Research shows that excessive smartphone use among young people is linked to declining academic performance and cognitive development. If we want our youth to reach their full potential and make positive changes in the world, we must address this growing concern."***

#2: "Studies have shown that excessive mobile phone usage by students can negatively impact their academic performance, attention span, sleep quality, and mental health"

Strengths:

- Your writing mentions several specific effects
- You bring up important points about health impacts

Weakness: Missing details → You mention "studies" but don't give any clear examples or numbers. The phrase "can negatively impact" is too general. Your readers need more specific details to be convinced.

***Consider: "A 2023 study of 1,000 students found that those who used smartphones more than 6 hours daily scored 30% lower on tests and reported sleeping 2 hours less per night."***

#3: "Workers trying to multi-task and rely on smartphones leads to lowered attention making it harder to concentrate and problem solve."

Strengths:

- Your writing connects smartphones to workplace issues
- You identify specific problems like multitasking

Weakness: Unclear connection → Your sentence structure is confusing. You jump between ideas without showing how they link together. The phrase "leads to lowered attention" needs more detail.

***Consider: "When workers constantly switch between their smartphones and tasks, their productivity drops by 40% and they make twice as many mistakes, showing how these devices harm our ability to focus and solve problems."***

■ Your piece makes good points about smartphone impacts, but needs stronger evidence to back up your claims. You could improve by adding real-life examples that your readers can relate to. Also, try organising your ideas into clear sections - perhaps one on academic effects, one on health impacts, and one on workplace problems. Additionally, use more connecting words to help your ideas flow better. Your writing would be stronger if you included some solutions or ways to manage smartphone use wisely. Try adding numbers or statistics to make your arguments more convincing. You could also make your piece more powerful by sharing a short story about someone affected by too much smartphone use.

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**Score: 40/50**

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Section 2:

~~#1 Smartphones are making our young generations dumber, and that is an inevitable fact. Don't you want our young to be able to live a life good enough to be able to change the world in the future?~~ [Smartphones are significantly affecting our young generations' cognitive development, as evidence clearly shows. How can we ensure our youth will have the capability to make meaningful changes in our world?]

Our world changes every single second, causing massive impacts on the future, but if our future generations are limited by the effects of smartphones, this will hinder their potential. There is no doubt that smartphones are making us dumber, as they significantly impact our attention span, making us learn less. They also affect our sleeping schedules too, causing us to not be able to remember things as well. This all leads to a lack of motivation for learning, and makes us dumber.

#2 Studies have shown that excessive mobile phone usage by students can negatively impact their academic performance, attention span, sleep quality, and mental health, with key concerns including distractions during class, social media addiction, cyberbullying, and reduced face-to-face interactions, leading to potential issues with learning and overall well-being. Another problem is notifications. Non-stop notifications hinder our ability to focus, therefore diminishing

our attention span. This can also make us unable to focus in important situations, like tests, and even on the road when we are driving.

~~#3 Workers trying to multi-task and rely on smartphones leads to lowered attention making it harder to concentrate and problem solve.~~ [Workers who frequently multitask with smartphones experience decreased attention spans, making it increasingly difficult to concentrate and solve problems effectively.] Smartphones have led to a society that is less knowledgeable, over reliant on technology and less capable of critical thinking. Smartphones are making us dumber by trapping us into a convenience instead of promoting cognitive growth.

Because of the above reasons, smartphones have definitely taken over our minds, causing us to be dumber.

## □ WRITING PIECE 3

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph) Strengths:

- Strong opening statement that clearly states the main argument
- Good connection between sleep and academic performance

Weaknesses: Lack of specific evidence → Your opening lacks concrete data to support the claim about "research consistently supports." You mention research but do not provide any specific studies or statistics, which weakens your argument.

Exemplar: ***Research by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine shows that schools starting at 8:30 AM or later improved students' grades by 4.5% and increased attendance rates by 25%.***

#2 (Third paragraph) Strengths:

- Effective use of statistics from a credible source
- Clear explanation of sleep requirements

Weaknesses: Limited exploration of counter-arguments → Your paragraph presents statistics but doesn't address possible objections to later start times, such as impact on after-school activities or parents' work schedules.

Exemplar: ***While some worry about the effects on after-school activities, schools that have shifted to later start times have successfully adjusted their schedules, with sports teams practicing before school instead.***

#3 (Fourth paragraph) Strengths:

- Strong emotional appeal
- Clear call to action

Weaknesses: Overreliance on rhetorical questions → Your paragraph uses questions without providing solutions. The phrase "shouldn't we take steps to stop this harm?" needs to be followed by specific actions.

Exemplar: ***Schools can take immediate action by shifting start times to 8:30 AM, implementing quiet study spaces for early arrivals, and working with local transport services to adjust bus schedules.***

■ Your persuasive piece makes good points about later school start times, but needs more specific examples to support your claims. You could improve the second paragraph by adding real-life

examples from schools that have already changed their start times. Also, try to include more numbers and facts throughout your writing to make your arguments stronger. Additionally, when you mention "emotional toll," you could describe exactly how this affects teachers and students. Your conclusion would be more powerful if you added clear steps that schools can take to make this change happen. Try to think about what parents might worry about and answer these worries in your writing. You could also make your piece stronger by talking about how other countries handle school start times and what we can learn from them.

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**Score: 40/50**

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Section 2:

#1 School should start later in the day for the benefit of students' overall well-being and academic performance. ~~Research consistently supports the idea that later start times align better with the natural sleep cycles of adolescents~~ [Studies from leading sleep institutes consistently demonstrate that later start times align with adolescents' natural sleep patterns], allowing them to perform better academically and mentally.

#2 Studies have shown that teens require between 8 to 10 hours of sleep each night for optimal functioning. However, early school start times often interfere with their ability to get this rest, leading to sleep deprivation. The National Sleep Foundation states that only about 27% of high school students get the recommended amount of sleep. ~~This lack of rest results in~~ [This sleep deficit leads to] impaired cognitive function, including difficulties with memory, attention, and decision-making. Later start times would allow students to meet their sleep needs and perform better in class.

#3 As a society, we have a responsibility to prioritiz[s]e the health and well-being of young people. ~~If we know that sleep deprivation can harm a student's health leading to increased risks of depression and anxiety, shouldn't we take steps to stop this harm?~~ [Since research clearly shows that sleep deprivation increases risks of depression and anxiety in students, we must take immediate action.] School systems have an obligation to provide an environment where students can thrive, and part of that is ensuring they are physically and mentally prepared for learning each day.

Witnessing students struggle with fatigue and stress takes an emotional toll on everyone involved. By delaying the start of school, we are sending a message that we value their well-being, not just their academic output. A well-rested student is a motivated and engaged student, something that all teachers yearn to have in their classroom.



In conclusion, the evidence overwhelmingly supports later school start times. It's time to put students' health and success first.