

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, the sky mocking her absurdly and the clouds taunting her while laughing with satisfaction."

Strengths:

- Vivid sensory details through tactile description of map carving
- Creative personification of natural elements

Weakness: Limited emotional depth → Your opening focuses heavily on external descriptions without revealing the character's internal state. The phrase "mocking her absurdly" could be deepened to show why she feels mocked and what this means to her.

Exemplar: *She traced the ridges of her carved map with trembling fingers, her heart aching as she searched the stormy skies for answers, the clouds' taunting laughter echoing her deepest fears.*

#2: "She gives words of encouragement and strength to herself, hoping to transform herself into a better and stronger self, one that could withstand strong winds and combat the most powerful of loneliness."

Strengths:

- Strong theme of self-improvement
- Effective metaphor linking emotional and physical strength

Weakness: Telling instead of showing → Your writing tells us about her encouragement rather than showing us through specific thoughts or words. The phrase "gives words of encouragement" could be replaced with actual self-talk.

Exemplar: *"I am the mountain," she whispered fiercely to herself, "I will stand unmoved by these winds of doubt."*

#3: "To her surprise, the storm didn't whisper secrets, however the cloud, who had been overcome by her begging, turned friendly and kind, kind enough to open up the skies and fill her with happiness again."

Strengths:

- Clear resolution to the conflict
- Emotional transformation shown through nature

Weakness: Rushed ending → Your conclusion moves too quickly from conflict to resolution. The phrase "fill her with happiness again" doesn't show us how this change happens or what it means for her.

Exemplar: *The clouds parted slowly, each ray of sunlight washing away layers of her loneliness until she felt the warm glow of hope return to her heart.*

■ Your narrative shows promise in using weather as a metaphor for emotional states. You could strengthen the story by developing a clearer connection between the map carving and her emotional journey. The sudden shift from despair to happiness needs more development to feel earned. Try adding specific moments that show her growth. Your metaphors work well but need more consistent development throughout the piece. Focus on showing your character's emotional changes through actions and specific thoughts rather than stating them directly.

Actionable Task: Rewrite the final paragraph focusing on gradual transformation, showing specific moments that lead to her emotional change through concrete details and thoughts.

Score: 42/50

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, ~~the sky mocking her absurdly and the clouds taunting her while laughing with satisfaction~~ [as the sky seemed to mock her desires, clouds taunting her with their satisfied laughter]. Loneliness was circling her like a lion circling its prey, as she stood there, pleading ~~the weather to turn~~ [with the weather to become] kinder and more generous to her. The dark clouds refused, and she felt frostier and lonelier than ever.

#2 As the natural forces became stronger and she became defenceless, all she could do was to continue carving the map, seeing if the storms would still whisper secrets that could help her find

inner strength and outer power. ~~She gives~~ [She gave] words of encouragement and strength to herself, hoping to transform herself into a better and stronger self, one that could withstand strong winds and combat the most powerful of loneliness. However, the pessimistic side of her ~~claims~~ [claimed] that would be 'just a dream' and would 'never come true.' She ~~forces~~ [forced] herself to push away thoughts, and continue.

Endeavouring, she ~~feels~~ [felt] that true pain lies not in physical labour itself, but in the environment and thoughts that encompass it.

~~#3 To her surprise, the storm didn't whisper secrets, however the cloud, who had been overcome by her begging, turned friendly and kind, kind enough to open up the skies and fill her with happiness again~~ [To her surprise, though the storm remained silent, the clouds—overcome by her perseverance—gradually softened, parting to reveal gentle skies that filled her with forgotten joy], returning her to her once innocent state.

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. The carvings seemed eerie, yet delicately crafted by an unknown force, its patterns gleaming against the setting and harsh sun."

Strengths:

- Your vivid sensory details create an atmospheric opening scene
- Your use of contrasting elements (soft glow vs. harsh sun) adds depth

Weakness: Limited context establishment → Your opening introduces interesting elements but leaves readers wondering about basic details. Phrases like "the one thing they feared most" and "unknown force" need more context to help readers understand the setting and situation.

Exemplar: *In the soft glow of the alien sunset, the terrified crowd gathered around the mysterious sculpture, its crystalline carvings pulsing with an otherworldly energy that could only have come from the Shadowmancer - the ancient being their people had feared for generations.*

#2: "Little did they know that even if the society did defend, they would stand powerless against the criminal, and the most powerful villain history has ever witnessed."

Strengths:

- Your build-up of tension shows good storytelling instinct
- Your hint at the villain's power creates intrigue

Weakness: Character development gaps → Your villain needs more specific details about their nature and motivations. Simply stating they are "the most powerful villain" doesn't help readers picture or understand the character.

Exemplar: *The crowd remained unaware that their defence would crumble before the Shadowmancer's ancient magic - a being whose very presence had destroyed entire civilisations and whose thirst for chaos had earned them a place in every child's nightmares.*

#3: "Rain poured down, and the fight-or-flight instinct came into play. Villagers chose flight, while the strongest ones defended against the villain, and proved themselves powerful. The storm slowly grew tinier – as the clouds cleared."

Strengths:

- Your inclusion of weather elements adds to the atmosphere
- Your showing of different character reactions creates variety

Weakness: Rushed resolution → Your ending feels hurried and doesn't properly resolve the conflict you built up. The sudden clearing of the storm and defence against the villain needs more development.

Exemplar: *Thunder crashed as rain lashed against the village square. While most fled in terror, a brave few stood their ground, channelling ancient protective magic that had been passed down through generations. Their combined power pushed back against the Shadowmancer's darkness, slowly forcing the supernatural storm to retreat.*

■ Your story shows promise with its mysterious atmosphere and supernatural elements. To strengthen your narrative, focus on developing a clearer sequence of events and deeper character motivations. Your villain needs more specific details to make them truly frightening. Try adding more background about the sculpture's significance and the society's history with the villain. You could also expand on how the defenders manage to prove themselves powerful against such a threatening force.

Actionable task: Rewrite the climactic moment when the defenders face the villain, focusing on specific details about their powers, emotions, and the actual conflict between them.

Score: 40/50

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 carvings seemed eerie, yet delicately crafted by an unknown force, its patterns gleaming against the setting and harsh sun. Yet as the crowd ~~enlarged~~ [grew], the one they feared most stood there, watching, and laughing evilly, while getting ready to attack.

#2 Little did they know that even if ~~the society did defend~~ [society tried to defend itself], they would stand powerless against the criminal, and the most powerful villain history has ever witnessed.

When the sculpture started to glow with a slight orange light, the crowd ~~new~~ [knew] it had fallen for the trap, and, ~~with restricted time~~ [with time running out], ran away at the top of their speeds. The clouds began to roar, as a storm grew larger and larger.

With little paths to choose from, the locals made their decision to stay and fight. However, an instinct urged them to escape and to hide from this terrible villain, ~~that~~ [who] could demolish them all. Time was running out – they had to provide a solution to their dilemma, before ~~it becomes~~ [it became] too late to make any more actions.

#3 Rain poured down, and the fight-or-flight instinct came into play. Villagers chose flight, while the strongest ones defended against the villain, and proved themselves powerful. The storm slowly ~~grew tinier~~ [diminished] – as the clouds cleared.

INTERVIEW

Section 1:

#1 "My family has been more than essential in influencing me and shaping the way I face challenges [...] which was the construction process."

Strengths:

- Uses a specific example about school project disagreements
- Shows understanding of conflict resolution principles

Weakness: Limited depth in example discussion → Your response briefly mentions the school project conflict but doesn't elaborate on how you applied the family wisdom specifically. What exactly did you do differently because of your family's teaching? How did it impact the outcome?

I applied this wisdom during our project when my teammate insisted on using cardboard instead of wood. Rather than arguing, I agreed to try their approach first, which led them to be more open to my suggestions later about the design.

#2 "One tradition I cherish in my family is celebrating the Lunar New Year [...] enjoying the celebrations."

Strengths:

- Shows genuine enthusiasm for the tradition
- Mentions multiple aspects of the celebration

Weakness: Surface-level description → Your answer focuses mainly on food and general enjoyment without sharing personal meaning or specific family moments. What unique traditions does your family practice? How has this celebration shaped your family bonds?

During Lunar New Year, our family has a special tradition where each person shares their proudest moment from the past year while we make dumplings together. This brings us closer as we reflect on our journey as a family.

#3 "My mother has inspired me the most in my family [...] which has helped me a lot."

Strengths:

- Clear choice of role model
- Lists multiple learned qualities

Weakness: Generic examples → Your response lists qualities without showing how your mother specifically helped develop them. What actions or words from your mother led to these traits? Share a moment when her inspiration directly influenced your choices.

My mother demonstrated honesty when she once returned extra change at the shop, explaining to me that integrity matters more than money. This lesson stayed with me and influenced my decision to admit my mistake during a class presentation.

■ Your answers would benefit from more personal stories and specific examples. Try to dig deeper into each experience by sharing detailed moments that changed your perspective or behaviour. When discussing family influence, connect their teachings to actual outcomes in your life. Your responses could be longer to fully showcase the impact your family has had on your development.

Score: 41/50

Section 2:

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

#1 ~~My family has been more than essential~~ [My family has played a crucial role] in influencing me and shaping the way I face challenges. They have taught me how to negotiate, and how to solve conflicts with not only other people, but also with myself and the society around me. To give an example, they used to repeat the saying of 'giving something small will lead to bigger gratitude,' emphasising how small arguments can easily be resolved by letting the other person do a task their way, which will ultimately lead to you getting a positive return with gratitude, when I told them about the argument with ~~the school project at school~~ [our school project], and how my friends and I disagreed over a small detail of our project, which was the construction process.

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

#2 One tradition I cherish in my family is celebrating the Lunar New Year. ~~Celebrating the Lunar New Year is, I believe, enjoyable and I can really connect with the spirit on this occasion.~~ [I deeply connect with the spirit of this occasion and find it truly enjoyable.] Also, the food we have is a feast, and it is more than just palatable and tasty, it is delicious! Not only that, but we get to celebrate with friends, which is ~~the one~~ [one] of the most joyful aspects of celebrating the Lunar New Year. It strengthens friendship and together, we spend moments ~~together~~ enjoying the celebrations.

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

#3 My mother has inspired me the most in my family, by teaching me life lessons and ways to build good traits at a young age. I've learnt some traits such as honesty and diligence because of my mother's teaching. Over the years, I've developed other qualities too, such as kindness and respect, which I believe are essential for me as I talk to my peers and teachers at school. Now, I have effectively gained some other skills too, including public speaking skills and bravery skills. She has inspired me to go for tough challenges, and keep working hard to achieve the most in life, which has helped me a lot.