

WRITING PIECE 1 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1 "Anna Karenina, a middle-class woman with beautiful brown hair and shining blue eyes lived in Moscow with her husband and two kids." Strengths:

- Clear introduction of the main character with vivid physical description
- Establishes the setting and family context efficiently

Weakness: Character background lacks depth → Your opening focuses mainly on physical appearance without showing Anna's personality or inner world. The phrase "beautiful brown hair and shining blue eyes" tells us how she looks but not who she is.

Exemplar: *Anna Karenina lived in Moscow with her husband and two children, finding contentment in her middle-class life yet harboring a deep passion for woodcarving that set her apart from other housewives.*

#2 "Her heart beating with excitement, she rushed to the barn and started on the project." Strengths:

- Shows emotional response through physical reaction
- Creates movement and builds anticipation

Weakness: Limited emotional exploration → Your sentence jumps quickly to action without letting readers feel Anna's full emotional journey. The phrase "rushed to the barn" misses the chance to show her hopes and fears about this opportunity.

Exemplar: *Her hands trembling with both excitement and nervousness, Anna made her way to the barn, where her collection of woodcarving tools waited to help bring her dreams to life.*

#3 "Many days later, the map was finished, but when the man who wanted the map failed to pick it up, the family's spirits dropped" Strengths:

- Creates a turning point in the story
- Shows the impact on the whole family

Weakness: Underdeveloped conflict resolution → Your ending feels rushed and doesn't fully explore the emotional impact. The phrase "the family's spirits dropped" doesn't show how this affects their future plans or Anna's dreams.

Exemplar: *After weeks of dedication, Anna completed the intricate map, but as days passed with no word from the commissioner, she watched her family's dreams of Mediterranean adventures slowly fade away.*

■ Your narrative shows promise in creating an interesting character with unique skills and dreams. However, you could deepen the story by exploring Anna's relationship with woodcarving earlier in the tale. Try showing how this skill has helped her cope with her sea longing before the map opportunity arrives. Add more details about her family's reaction to her passion for both the sea and woodcarving. Your ending needs more resolution - perhaps show how Anna's artistic talent might still open new doors for her family. Give your readers a stronger sense of hope or learning from this experience.

Actionable Task: Rewrite the final paragraph focusing on how Anna uses this disappointment to strengthen her family bonds and pursue her artistic dreams in a new way.

Score: 39/50

Section 2:

#1 ~~Anna Karenina, a middle-class woman with beautiful brown hair and shining blue eyes lived in Moscow~~ [Anna Karenina, a middle-class woman with beautiful brown hair and shining blue eyes, lived in Moscow] with her husband and two kids. She has been obsessed with the sea for many years due to its beauty and sparkling water, but family pressure, young kids, a tight budget and moral obligations have stunted and crushed her dreams.

#2 Her heart beating with excitement, she rushed to the barn and started on the project. After working tirelessly, she felt the ridges of the map and wondered if the storms below still whispered secrets to those who dared listen. Right after this revelation came to her, she realised that the money she might be sent would cover a holiday on a ship. Running to the door, she called her husband's name.

#3 ~~Many days later, the map was finished,~~ [After many days of work, the map was finished,] but when the man who wanted the map failed to pick it up, the family's spirits dropped so much that even Anna, someone who never showed any emotion, let herself shed a few tears in her broad husband's arms.

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 thing they feared most. The sculpture was of a family with agonising faces due to invading aliens that surrounded them."

Strengths:

- Strong opening that creates an immediate sense of mystery
- Vivid imagery that sets the scene effectively

Weakness: Limited Development of Setting → Your opening focuses heavily on the sculpture but gives little context about the world where this takes place. Phrases like "alien sunset" and "thing they feared most" need more background to help readers understand the setting.

Exemplar: *In the eerie purple glow of Earth's transformed sky, the crowd gathered outside the National Museum gasped at the intricate sculpture, their faces reflecting the same terror carved into the stone family before them.*

#2: "Surprisingly, the FBI didn't state this information in their press conference. It was called The Nightmare as the sandstone that the sculptor used was black, as if stained with coal."

Strengths:

- Creates tension through government secrecy
- Effective use of symbolism with the black sandstone

Weakness: Underdeveloped Plot Elements → Your mention of the FBI press conference feels rushed without sharing what they did say. The naming of the sculpture needs more connection to the plot.

Exemplar: *The FBI's press conference carefully avoided mentioning the alien fingerprints, focusing instead on the sculpture's unique black sandstone composition - a material that seemed to absorb light like a cosmic void.*

#3: "Seeing it was lightly sprinkling with snow, like a fairy blowing white sand onto the world, he took the opportunity to do his much-wanted investigation."

Strengths:

- Beautiful metaphor with the snow description
- Shows character motivation

Weakness: Character Motivation Gap → Your introduction of Michael's investigation lacks clear reasoning for why this specific morning was ideal for investigation.

Exemplar: *The light snow provided perfect cover - fewer visitors would be at the museum, giving Michael the chance to examine the sculpture up close without drawing attention.*

■ Your narrative shows promise in building an intriguing sci-fi mystery. To strengthen your story, focus on developing clearer connections between events. The jump from the sculpture's discovery to Michael's investigation needs more bridging details. Consider adding more about why Michael specifically is interested in investigating, and what makes him qualified or motivated to do so. You've created interesting elements with the FBI cover-up and the alien fingerprints - these could be expanded to build more tension.

Actionable Task: Rewrite the paragraph introducing Michael, focusing on establishing his specific connection to the alien presence and his reasons for distrusting the FBI's official story.

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 sculpture was of a family with agonising faces due to invading aliens that surrounded them. ~~Unaware of what threat the sculpture held, the New York Government put it on exhibition outside the National Museum straight after it was delivered by "anonymous donators."~~ [Unaware of the sculpture's hidden threat, the New York Government immediately displayed it outside the National Museum after its delivery from anonymous donors.] What was more interesting though, was that when the FBI did a fingerprint check, there was no sign of any human intervention, but only little hand marks that looked as if an alien sculpted the intricate artwork.

#2 Surprisingly, the FBI didn't state this information in their press conference. It was called The Nightmare as the sandstone that the sculptor used was black, as if stained with coal. That's when Michael comes in, a curious African New Yorker with ragged overalls, a torn shirt, a smeared head and a scar that dominated the left side of his face. ~~Suspecting that there was more to the story than the FBI was letting on~~ [Suspecting there was more to the story than the FBI revealed], he decided to do some investigation himself.

#3 One snowy morning, Michael sat up in bed and looked out his white-washed window. Seeing it was lightly sprinkling with snow, like a fairy blowing white sand onto the world, he took the opportunity to do his much-wanted investigation. Slipping out of bed, he called to his sister that he would be outside today. Once he had her blessing, he walked out of his parent's bungalow and headed for the Museum.

INTERVIEW

Section 1:

#1 "My parents have shaped the way I have approached challenges by showing me how they overcome different hardships. For example, when my father took up a new job in the financial business, he showed grit and hard work as he had to learn many new different skills, staying up late even though he felt tired and wanted to go bed."

Strengths:

- You effectively use a specific example to support your point
- You demonstrate clear understanding of the question by linking parents' actions to your own approach

Weaknesses: Limited detail → Your example would be stronger if you shared what specific skills your father learned and how his experience directly influenced your own behaviour.

I learned from watching my father master complex financial analysis software and industry regulations despite his IT background. His dedication taught me that with persistence, I can overcome any learning curve.

#2 "I hold this close to my heart due to my family and I always having deep conversations, enjoying driving to different locations around Sydney, and having fun in the car."

Strengths:

- You include emotional significance through "close to my heart"
- You provide multiple aspects of why the tradition matters

Weaknesses: Vague description → The nature of these "deep conversations" needs more detail. What topics do you discuss? How have these conversations strengthened your family bonds?

These car rides give us space to discuss everything from school challenges to future dreams, helping me understand my parents' wisdom while sharing my own thoughts openly.

#3 "The reason he inspires me is because he has great discipline, he's caring, loving, happy and always loves me."

Strengths:

- You show clear admiration for your father
- You list multiple positive qualities

Weaknesses: List-like structure → Instead of simply listing traits, develop how these qualities manifest in your father's actions and their impact on you.

My father's discipline shows in how he maintains a demanding career while never missing my basketball games, demonstrating that true care means consistently showing up for those you love.

■ Your answers would benefit from more detailed examples and deeper reflection. When describing family influences, share specific situations and explain how they changed your perspective or behaviour. Rather than just stating what family members do, explore why their actions matter to you and how they've shaped your character. Try expanding each answer to include both the what and the why of your family's impact.

Score: 38/50

Section 2:

#1 ~~My parents have shaped the way I have approached challenges by showing me how they overcome different hardships.~~ [My parents have shaped my approach to challenges by demonstrating how they overcome hardships.] For example, when my father took up a new job in the financial business, he showed grit and hard work as he had to learn many new different skills, staying up late even though he felt tired and wanted to ~~go bed~~ [to go to bed].

#2 One family habit I cherish is driving to Representative Basketball games on the weekend with my parents. ~~I hold this close to my heart due to my family and I always having deep conversations~~ [This tradition is precious to me because my family and I share meaningful conversations], enjoying driving to different locations around Sydney, and having fun in the car. This is one of the many things I enjoy as it bonds my family's relationship, helps us understand each other and unites us so in the hardships of life, we may stick together.

#3 The one person who inspires me the most is my father. ~~The reason he inspires me is because he has~~ [He inspires me through his] great discipline, he's caring, loving, happy and always loves me. Another reason I look up to my father is because he sacrifices for me, is patient, pushes me, pays for sports and tutoring, drives me everywhere and cooks me meals. These are just a few of the reasons I look up to my father like no other.