

□ 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. But she heard nothing. It had been many years since she had heard the trembling voices of the winds, felt Winter's gaze, caught the messages of the rain."

Strengths:

- Strong sensory imagery through tactile and auditory details
- Effective use of personification with storms whispering secrets

Weakness: Limited context and character establishment → Your opening lacks clarity about who 'she' is and why she's carving a map. The connection between the character and natural elements needs more development. Phrases like "storms below still whispered secrets" leave readers wondering about the significance.

Exemplar: *She traced the deep ridges of the map beneath her fingers, remembering how the storm's whispers once guided her people through the darkest nights. Now, only silence greeted her ears.*

#2: "This world was built over ruins of an old one. The ancient world had been a metropolis, but it was only human nature for conflict. From the blood and toil of the old civilizations came a new one- Or four new ones."

Strengths:

- Compelling world-building concept
- Clear progression from past to present

Weakness: Rushed world-building → Your transition between ideas feels hurried. The shift from "metropolis" to "four new ones" needs more detail. The phrase "it was only human nature for conflict" requires more context about what specific conflicts led to this change.

Exemplar: *The gleaming towers of the ancient metropolis now lay buried beneath our feet, their destruction a testament to humanity's endless wars. From these ashes rose not one, but four distinct kingdoms, each born from the elements themselves.*

#3: "She was one of water, but that was useless against the armies of Earth soldiers, and the water let them thrive. As for her? She could have saved her people, for she was the only one who knew how to use ice"

Strengths:

- Interesting power dynamic between elements
- Unique twist on elemental abilities

Weakness: Underdeveloped character motivation → Your explanation of why ice powers could save her people needs more detail. The connection between "water let them thrive" and her inability to help isn't clearly established.

Exemplar: *Though born of water, her rare gift of ice manipulation could have turned the tide against the Earth kingdom's advancing forces. Yet the very element she commanded betrayed her, nourishing their armies instead of hindering them.*

■ Your narrative shows promise in creating an intriguing post-apocalyptic world with elemental powers. To enhance your story's impact, consider deepening the emotional weight of your main character's betrayal. Add more specific details about how the four kingdoms function and interact. Show us more of the consequences of her actions through concrete examples rather than telling us about them. Focus on building stronger connections between the character's abilities and their impact on the story's events.

Actionable task: Rewrite the paragraph about the character's betrayal, focusing specifically on one vivid memory that shows us why her decision to flee was so impactful for her kingdom.

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. But she heard nothing. It had been many years since she had heard the trembling voices of the winds, felt Winter's gaze, caught the messages of the rain. ~~Yet the were~~ [Yet there were] still those ~~day~~ [days], many, many decades prior.

#2 This world was built over ~~ruins of~~ [the ruins of] an old one. The ancient world had been a metropolis, but it was only human nature for conflict. From the blood and toil of the old ~~civilizations came~~ [civilisations arose] a new one- ~~Or~~ [or] four new ones. People had had the

ability to bend elements, and they were the only survivors. Four kingdoms were born out of the ashes- Fire, water, earth and air.

#3 She was one of water, but that was useless against the armies of Earth soldiers, and the water let them thrive. As for her? She could have saved her people, for she was the only one who knew how to use ice, but in a disastrous decision, she turned and fled. She had betrayed her kingdom of rain and Winter, and neither of those phenomena were kind to her ever again.

And so, she stared out into the howling tempest, a symphony of the fallen, resembling the nexus of thoughts that plagued her mind. The winds thrashed in anger, and in that sight, she did the same. She was going to fight them, no matter the cost, because now, there was nothing left to lose.

Then she heard a voice.

"Go; ~~You~~ [you] have your work cut out for you as our last," ~~Came~~ [came] a voice from the wind.

□ 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. It's intricate patterns and smooth stone stunning them. It had been a score years ago since they had seen something that captivated their interest- That awakened forgotten creativity- That made them feel something that wasn't sad and depressed."

Strengths:

- Strong imagery with the "soft glow" and "intricate sculpture"
- Effective build-up of emotional impact through repetition

Weakness: Underdeveloped Setting Details → Your opening needs more specific details about the sculpture and its impact. The phrase "one thing they feared most" leaves readers wondering what exactly this means. The repeated use of "That" creates distance rather than drawing readers in.

Exemplar: *In the crimson glow of Venus's alien sunset, the crowd stood transfixed before the towering crystal sculpture, its spiralling tentacles and gleaming surfaces a haunting reminder of their greatest fear. After twenty years of grief, this masterpiece stirred something long forgotten in their hearts - hope.*

#2: "When they had moved to Venus, an alien species arrived days later and tore through anything in their way. Hundreds were killed in massacres and almost everyone lost one or two loved ones."

Strengths:

- Clear establishment of conflict
- Direct presentation of stakes

Weakness: Limited Context → Your passage jumps too quickly into the conflict. The phrase "moved to Venus" needs more detail about why humans relocated. "Tore through anything" is too vague to create a vivid picture.

Exemplar: *The human colony on Venus had barely established their first dome when the crystalline ships appeared. Within hours, the aliens' energy weapons had shattered our defences, leaving thousands dead and the survivors haunted by the screams of their loved ones.*

#3: "And all that was left was a broken planet and a soft sunset, sweeping gently through the horizon."

Strengths:

- Poetic ending imagery
- Effective contrast between destruction and beauty

Weakness: Rushed Resolution → Your ending feels disconnected from the story's buildup. The phrase "broken planet" needs more specific details about what this means for the survivors.

Exemplar: *Amidst the ruins of both civilisations, Venus's purple sunset painted the crystalline debris in gentle hues, nature's final tribute to the hubris of two species who chose destruction over understanding.*

■ Your story presents an intriguing post-apocalyptic scenario, but needs deeper exploration of key moments. The quick progression from colonisation to conflict to mutual destruction leaves little room for readers to connect emotionally with the characters. Try focusing more on the human experience of these events. You've created interesting imagery with the alien sculpture, but could use this more effectively as a symbol throughout the narrative. Consider developing the contrast between beauty and destruction more fully. Adding specific details about the colony's life before the invasion would help readers understand what was lost.

Actionable Task: Rewrite the first paragraph focusing on describing the alien sculpture in detail, making sure to connect its physical features to the emotions it evokes in the crowd.

Score: 42/50

Section 2:

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. ~~It's~~ [Its] intricate patterns and smooth stone stunning them. ~~It had been a score years ago since they had seen something that captivated their interest- That awakened forgotten creativity- That made them feel something that wasn't sad and depressed.~~ [For twenty years, nothing had captured their interest like this - awakening forgotten creativity and stirring emotions beyond their usual grief and depression.]

When they had moved to Venus, an alien species arrived days later and tore through anything in their way. Hundreds were killed in massacres and almost everyone lost one or two loved ones. More and more aliens kept coming until humanity had had it. ~~It started with the USA~~ [It started with the United States] launching an atomic bomb. North Korea, Britain, China, Russia, and every country that had a nuclear arsenal ~~were too~~ [proved all too] open to the idea and began launching masses. The aliens eventually left but a legacy of suffering was left behind. ~~World leaders thought without the aliens, the planet was now beautiful, but beauty is in the eye of the~~

~~beholder, and the streets filled with both alien and human bodies were certainly not. [World leaders claimed the planet was now beautiful without the aliens, but the streets littered with both alien and human bodies told a different story.]~~

Now the crowds standing in the piles of fallout and flesh, their eyes boring into the statue, cameras drawn, were the first to discover that the aliens had left a gift. A tentacle slithered out of the colossal side of the statue.

With all the soldiers gone home and too old to fight, there was no one left to save them.

But in the end, the aliens lost anyway. They defeated the humans again and again, but the ever-lasting effects of nuclear weaponry caused horrific mutations and mutilations, and the aliens died out as well.

And all that was left was a broken planet and a soft sunset, sweeping gently through the horizon.

□ INTERVIEW

Section 1:

#1 "One way my family has shaped how I deal with problems is positivity..." Strengths:

- Clear connection between family influence and personal growth
- Good reflection on how positivity impacts problem-solving

Weaknesses: Lack of specific examples → Your response mentions positivity helping with confidence but does not provide concrete situations or moments when this happened. The phrase "when I fail" could be expanded with a real example.

Exemplar: ***"When I failed my first piano recital last year, my family's positive outlook helped me see it as a chance to practice more rather than give up."***

#2 "One tradition in my family that I cherish is reading to each other..." Strengths:

- Shows meaningful family bonding
- Links tradition to personal development

Weaknesses: Limited depth in describing impact → Your response briefly mentions "bringing us closer together" but doesn't explore how reading has shaped your personality or values. The phrase "helps our speaking manner" needs more detail about specific improvements.

Exemplar: ***"Reading together has improved my public speaking skills, as I've learned to express emotions through different character voices and maintain eye contact while telling stories."***

#3 "The person I admire the most is my mother..." Strengths:

- Includes specific examples of mother's involvement
- Shows appreciation for both educational and fun interactions

Weaknesses: Underdeveloped character portrayal → Your response lists what your mother does but doesn't fully capture her personal qualities or impact on your character development. The phrase "always trying to teach me things" could be more specific.

Exemplar: ***"My mother's patience while helping me with difficult maths problems has taught me to approach challenges calmly and methodically."***

■ Your responses would benefit from more detailed examples and deeper reflection on how these experiences have shaped you. Try to include specific moments that show how your family's positivity helped you overcome challenges, how reading together has improved specific skills,

and what qualities you've learned from your mother. Make your answers longer by adding more personal examples and explaining their impact on your growth.

Score: 39/50

Section 2:

#1 One way my family has shaped how I deal with problems is positivity. When I fail, I know that I just have more to improve on and that I'll get it with time. ~~It helps me be happy when I get stuff right and think straight even when I get things wrong.~~ [Being positive helps me celebrate my successes and maintain clear thinking even during setbacks.] I think that this quality has helped me through many times where I was feeling unconfident and that even though sometimes the stress does get through, it is still crucial to building up knowledge and resilience in the face of challenge.

#2 One tradition in my family that I cherish is reading to each other. In my family, my parents enjoy reading me bedtime stories and I like to read stories back to them. ~~It has helped in many ways, and one is bringing us closer together, because everyone loves a story and that fosters social interaction.~~ [This tradition has strengthened our family bond, as sharing stories creates meaningful conversations and connections.] It also helps our speaking manner and etiquette.

#3 The person I admire the most is my mother. She worked in medical for years in Britain until she had me and my sister and is now a full-time mother. ~~She also sorts a lot of things to do with my education out (Stuff for parents)~~ [She manages many aspects of my education] and has always helped me when I don't understand something or need help. She is always trying to teach me things. We also like to play with toys with each other and build stuff (Like STEM kits and Lego).