

□ WRITING PIECE 1 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph) Strengths:

- Your opening line creates a powerful emotional appeal through vivid imagery
- Your transition from the emotional hook to your main argument is smooth

Weaknesses: Unclear thesis statement → Your main argument about rich countries helping poor nations needs stronger development. Your opening focuses on describing poverty but doesn't clearly state your position until the final sentence, which weakens your persuasive impact.

Consider: "Rich countries have both a moral obligation and responsibility to aid poorer nations, not just for ethical reasons, but as a matter of global justice and basic human dignity."

#2 (Second paragraph) Strengths:

- Your historical example about British colonialism supports your argument well
- Your connection between historical events and present-day responsibility is logical

Weaknesses: Limited perspective → Your focus solely on England's colonial past misses opportunities to explore other aspects of global inequality. The paragraph would be more persuasive if you included different examples of how wealthy nations gained their wealth.

Consider: "While Britain's colonial past in India represents one example of historical exploitation, many wealthy nations today built their fortunes through similar practices, creating a moral duty to support developing countries."

#3 (Third paragraph) Strengths:

- Your acknowledgment of potential problems shows balanced thinking
- Your suggestion of trade as an alternative solution is practical

Weaknesses: Oversimplified view → Your description of Africa as a single entity with corrupt governments overlooks the continent's diversity and complexity. This undermines your credibility and weakens your argument.

Consider: "While some attempts at direct aid have been complicated by governance issues in certain countries, successful alternatives like fair trade partnerships and targeted development programmes have shown promising results."

■ Your persuasive piece shows promise but needs deeper development in several areas. You could strengthen your opening by clearly stating your position earlier. Your second paragraph would benefit from more varied examples of historical inequality. Also, you should avoid broad generalisations about entire continents or regions. Additionally, your final paragraph feels rushed and could use more detail about specific successful aid programmes. Your conclusion would be stronger if it reminded readers of your key points before restating your main argument. You might want to look at the third paragraph again and break down the different ways countries can help each other. Lastly, try to add more details about how trade partnerships actually help both sides.

Score: 40/50

Section 2:

Should Rich Countries Be Required to Help Poorer Nations?

#1 Imagine the children barely clinging ~~onto~~ [to] life, starving daily as they trample the barren, war ridden plains. This is the disturbing reality for many poorer nations, too weak to even aid themselves or their families. ~~Which is why we must.~~ [This is why we must act.] Because it is more than ethics, it's about justice, and fairness.

#2 First, ask yourself, how did countries like the United States and England get wealthy? It is a dark history of stealing from other countries and exploiting them. For instance, take England. About 200 years ago, the British empire colonised India. However, while they were there, hundreds of thousands of artifacts and ancient history were stolen, resulting in a loss of more than 45 trillion dollars for India! Even though that is not the same England we know today, helping parts of India out would be more than charity, it's justice, and paying back their long-due debt.

#3 However, it's important to remember that even the nation that needs help the most can have problems. ~~The most common example would be Africa.~~ [Many African nations provide examples of these challenges.] Countries have tried to help by sending money and resources across borders, however, the corrupt ~~African Governments~~ [governments] stole the money for themselves, never reaching the needing people. So, instead of using monetary aid, it would be wiser to establish trade with other nations, leading to a two way benefit.

Thirdly, helping countries across borders is not a new idea. Countries like Indonesia, Australia and Kenya have consistently been helping other nations by sending resources, spending billions of dollars on humanitarian aid. The United Nations -organisation is also a very viable way to help other nations, providing clothing and shelter, and most importantly, peace between countries.

All in all, rich countries should undoubtedly help poorer nations. It is a matter of ethics and ~~humanitarians~~ [humanitarian aid] as much as it is fairness and justice for those who don't have the necessities.

□ WRITING PIECE 2 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph) Strengths:

- Clear thesis statement introducing the main argument
- Effective use of linking words to connect ideas

Weaknesses: Unsupported Claims → Your opening makes broad statements about smartphones' effects on cognitive abilities without providing specific examples or clear reasoning. Phrases like "dramatically reducing cognitive abilities" need more depth.

Smartphones negatively impact our cognitive abilities in several ways. When we constantly rely on search engines like Google, we often accept answers without thinking critically or evaluating sources. Short-form content on social media platforms has also shortened our attention spans significantly.

#2 (Second paragraph) Strengths:

- Good attempt to link social media usage to real-world impacts
- Clear topic sentence introducing new points

Weaknesses: Vague Development → Your discussion about isolation and depression lacks detailed examples. Phrases like "research has proven" need supporting details to make your argument more convincing.

The addictive nature of social media platforms often leads to real-world isolation. People spend hours scrolling through feeds instead of engaging in face-to-face interactions, which can harm their social skills and emotional wellbeing.

#3 (Fourth paragraph) Strengths:

- Practical solutions offered
- Good use of examples

Weaknesses: Limited Solutions → Your solutions focus mainly on screen time and privacy settings. The suggestions could be more varied to address the different problems you mentioned earlier.

To reduce smartphone dependency, you can set specific times for checking social media, use apps that promote mindful usage, and create phone-free zones in your home. These steps help build healthier digital habits while maintaining connection with others.

■ Your persuasive piece shows promise but needs deeper development of ideas. The introduction grabs attention, yet your arguments could be stronger with more specific examples. Also, your paragraphs would benefit from clearer links between ideas. Your solutions paragraph is a good start, but you could expand it to address more of the problems you mentioned. Additionally, try to make your points more convincing by showing how smartphones affect daily life through examples. Your conclusion could be stronger by restating your main points more clearly. Try to make your writing more engaging by using stronger persuasive language throughout your piece. Lastly, work on making smoother transitions between paragraphs to help your ideas flow better.

Score: 40/50

Section 2:

Are smartphones making us dumber? Smartphones are undoubtedly making us dumber. ~~From dramatically reducing cognitive abilities to decreased attention spans,~~ [Smartphones severely reduce our cognitive abilities and attention spans,] smartphones are an addiction that must be solved.

#1 ~~Firstly~~[First], smartphones have a devastating effect on our brains, the most notable being that our cognitive abilities are severely affected. Our overreliance on platforms such as Google leads us to search up a question without thinking for the answer and we don't even fact check the source. ~~Our attention span also decreases with media platforms such as TikTok or YouTube providing short-form content that catch our attention for only about a minute.~~ [Media platforms like TikTok and YouTube provide short-form content that has reduced our attention span to mere minutes.]

#2 Additionally, these platforms can further lead to isolation from the real world, backed up by the addictive nature of social media. Research has proven that excessive media usage can also lead to lower practical information, as we also lose our empathy skills. ~~This separation from the real world has also proven to cause higher rates of developing depression of any sort.~~ [This separation from the real world often leads to various forms of depression.]

One of the primary users of social media, young teens are possibly also at risk because of cyberbullying. Online bullying can be very common on online platforms such as Facebook or Instagram because everybody can freely comment on content. Young teens can be harmed here as a high percentage of people don't know the right steps to take when in the situation, and can lead to a long term dispute.

#3 However, there are some precautions you can take to reduce the significant drawbacks of technology. For instance, the most popular example is restricting screen time on certain apps. This not only reduces the addictive nature of phones, but also reduces the harmful effects of blue light, leading to eye strain and fatigue. You can make sure to keep your account private on social media accounts, so no one can bully you. ~~All in all~~ [In conclusion], smartphones are addictive devices with drawbacks, however ~~can be avoided~~ [these drawbacks can be managed] when used correctly.

□ WRITING PIECE 3

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph) Strengths:

- Strong emotional appeal through vivid imagery of tired students
- Effective hook that draws readers in with relatable scenario

Weaknesses: Limited Development → Your opening lacks specific details about how early students wake up. The phrase "unnatural times" is vague and could be strengthened with concrete examples.

Exemplar: *The deprived slumber of students dragging themselves to bus stops at 6:30 AM, and the sluggish people in the dull grey classroom, waiting for the end as time trudges on like a snail.*

#2 (Second paragraph) Strengths:

- Clear topic sentence that states the main point
- Good connection between sleep and student development

Weaknesses: Weak Support → Your paragraph mentions sleep time ranges but doesn't explain why these specific amounts matter. The phrase "rapidly aging" needs more context about teen development.

Exemplar: *Children and teens in school are proven not to get enough sleep, with most students only getting 6.5 to 7.5 hours instead of the vital 8 to 10 hours needed during their crucial developmental years.*

#3 (Third paragraph) Strengths:

- Strong cause-and-effect relationship between lack of sleep and emotions
- Good use of examples to show impact

Weaknesses: Underdeveloped Ideas → Your paragraph lists emotional effects but doesn't fully explore how these impact learning. The phrase "mixed emotions" could be more specific.

Exemplar: *When children and teens don't get proper sleep, they become irritable and quick-tempered in class, leading to arguments with classmates and difficulty focusing during important lessons.*

■ Your persuasive piece makes good points about later school start times, but needs more depth in several areas. You could improve the first paragraph by adding specific times when students

currently wake up compared to when they should wake up. Also, in your second paragraph, you could explain why growing teens need more sleep than adults. Additionally, your third paragraph would be stronger if you included examples of how sleep affects daily school life. Your conclusion could be stronger by adding a clear call to action for school leaders. You should add more details about how later start times would work in practice. Your writing would be more convincing if you included real examples of schools that changed their times successfully. Try adding more emotional appeals by describing how tired students feel throughout the day.

Score: 40/50

Section 2:

#1 Should school start later? The deprived slumber of students dragging themselves to the bus stops and the sluggish people in the dull grey classroom, waiting for the end as time trudges on like a snail. This is the tiring reality for students, forced to wake up at unnatural times. ~~This does more than disrupting~~ [This does more than disrupt] your body clock, it irritates students and lessens their cognitive and concentrative abilities. This needs to stop now.

#2 Firstly, children and teens in school are proven not to get the recommended amount of sleep and nourishment. The average sleep time for students is roughly 6.5 to 7.5 hours. This ~~well falls behind~~ [falls well behind] the recommended 8 to 10 hours of sleep. This heavy disruption can create problems with our circadian rhythm, and this can become a problem for young adolescents especially, as they require more sleep as they are rapidly aging.

#3 Secondly, when children and teens don't get the sleep they require, it can lead to mixed emotions, like irritation and quick temperedness or can even lead to depression if it is such a large disruption – which would be a colossal problem for someone so young. Furthermore, it would lead to lower concentration during class, and can even disturb your marks in tests or activities.

Later start times would be a huge improvement for both students and teachers alike. Students will receive a healthy 8 hours of sleep, leading to much better concentration, mood and marks during class. Teachers can rest up from long and stressful weeks of teaching, preventing fatigue and burnout.

All in all, school should certainly start later. All of the benefits of later school times should be considered and the disadvantages of early school times need to be thought about. ~~So remember,~~ [Remember that] a good night's sleep is essential for everyday activities, whether it be school or on a weekend.