

□ WRITING PIECE 1 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1: First paragraph Strengths:

- Vivid sensory details with the map carving and storm imagery
- Strong establishment of the setting and stakes

Weakness: Limited character background development → While your writing creates atmosphere, Sarah's personal history and motivations remain unclear. The mention of "A'lars" and her quest appear suddenly without context about why she's there or her connection to this place.

Exemplar: *Before tracing the ridges of her carved map, Sarah recalled the day she first arrived in A'lars, when its harsh winds had nearly broken her spirit - but nothing could stop her search.*

#2: Second paragraph Strengths:

- Emotional depth in describing father-daughter relationship
- Effective use of sensory details with "caffeine-infested breath"

Weakness: Abrupt transition → Your shift from memories to the Black Guard lacks smooth connection. The jump from warm memories to "He was taken, not lost" feels sudden, leaving readers struggling to follow the emotional thread.

Exemplar: *The memory of his caffeine-scented hugs made her chest tighten with determination - she would face the Black Guard's storms to bring those moments back.*

#3: Final paragraph Strengths:

- Creates tension through internal conflict
- Strong emotional stakes in the climax

Weakness: Rushed resolution setup → Your build-up to the choice feels hurried. The questions pile up quickly without giving readers time to feel the weight of each option Sarah faces.

Exemplar: *Sarah's hands trembled as two paths stretched before her: step from the shadows and face the Guard, or remain hidden and watch her father fade forever.*

■ Your narrative shows promise in building an intriguing world with emotional depth. Consider developing the relationship between the setting and characters more fully. The land of A'lars needs more concrete details to feel real and threatening. Try showing how the harsh environment shapes Sarah's choices and personality. Your story would benefit from slowing down key moments to let readers connect with Sarah's journey. Give more space to explore her feelings about each discovery and decision she makes.

Task: Rewrite the third paragraph focusing on Sarah's physical journey to the trial location, incorporating specific details about A'lars that reflect her emotional state.

Score: 42/50

Section 2:

She felt the ridges of the map she was carving and wondered if the storms below still whispered secrets to those who dared listen.

#1 Her fingers traced the ridges of the map she had etched into the worn surface, each groove a whisper from the storms that raged below. The night had been restless, the wind carrying riddles that gnawed away at her ~~resolving~~ [compelling] her to cling onto her last ember: hope. It was a fragile hope, sharp as the air of the desolate land of A'lars, where the weak were shadows and the strong ruled with no mercy. Yet it was enough. Enough to drive her forward, past the ruins of what once was a civilisation, toward the faint chance of finding her long-lost ebullient father.

#2 ~~She missed the smell of his caffeine-infested breath hugging against her like a warm blanket and his smile simply taking away her breath, leaving her flabbergasted.~~ [She yearned for the familiar comfort of his caffeine-infested breath, like a warm blanket, and his breath-taking smile that left her flabbergasted.] He always seemed to weasel joy or happiness into everything he did, and that was what separated him from the world. He was taken, not lost, she reminded herself, by the unseen hand of the Black Guard, whose power thundered across the land like an endless storm, unyielding and merciless.

A lugubrious sense of melancholy was scented a few metres away, and Sarah decided to follow it blindly down to her last straw. She arrived and it wasn't good. ~~Her mouth was hanging open as if the frightened horns of a petrified beast, she stood still and was shaking like a tree in a fierce gale.~~ [Her mouth hung open like the frightened horns of a petrified beast as she stood still, shaking like a tree in a fierce gale.] Cold weight coiled around her, shrouding her rigid spine. Drops of perspiration trickled down her cold slippery palms. It was as though her body was backing away

from the lived-through horror before her. Her father was undertaking a trial and the Black Guard himself was the judge.

#3 Teetering on the precipice of anarchic trepidation, Sarah immediately foresaw what was going to happen. Like all trials in the land of A'lars, the Black Guard won, and fate made sure of it. The punishment was the problem. It was death. Her father's face was bleak and dismal, emotionless like a mask. She gasped, what had they done to him? Was she too late? What had happened to the jubilant, smiling man she had once known? Would she stop this trial, potentially risking her life and her father's, or stay engulfed in the shadows, one with the storm's whispers, and let her father get tormented? The choice was hers, and it needed to be made immediately.

□ 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."

Strengths:

- Your opening line creates immediate intrigue through the contrast between beauty and fear
- Your use of sensory details with "soft glow" sets a vivid scene

Weakness: Limited Context Setup → Your opening line, while captivating, leaves too many questions unanswered early on. What is "the one thing they feared most"? Setting up the core conflict needs more groundwork.

In the soft glow of the alien sunset, the crowd gathered around the intricate sculpture, their gasps of wonder masking their deep-seated fear of its forbidden creators.

#2: "To the understanding of the settlers, the Chthonic Deities were disgraces; their culture drowning in lies and absurd myths. Minka was the last descendant of her kind, and she knew the truth."

Strengths:

- Your development of cultural conflict adds depth
- Your character's unique position as the last descendant creates emotional investment

Weakness: Underdeveloped Background → Your introduction of the Chthonic Deities feels sudden. The conflict between settlers and deities needs more build-up to help readers understand the stakes.

The settlers had long branded the Chthonic Deities as outcasts, their sacred traditions dismissed as dangerous myths. As the last of her kind, Minka carried the burden of truth - her people's artistry had always celebrated life, not destruction.

#3: "Minka's heart pounded. She had wanted them to realise the potential of her tribe's beauty, but now that was at the cost of exposing her."

Strengths:

- Your portrayal of internal conflict is compelling

- Your use of emotional tension drives the story forward

Weakness: rushed emotional progression → Your character's feelings jump from observation to crisis without showing the build-up of her fear and hope.

Minka's heart thundered against her ribs as she watched the crowd's reaction. Her dream of showing them her people's beauty had transformed into a nightmare that could expose everything she was.

■ Your narrative explores themes of prejudice and cultural misunderstanding with potential for deeper impact. Consider developing the background of both societies more fully before the sculpture reveal. The conflict between preservation of heritage and fear of the unknown needs more exploration through Minka's perspective. Show more of her daily struggles living among people who fear her kind. Add details about previous incidents that shaped the settlers' fears.

Actionable Task: Rewrite the scene where Minka creates the sculpture, focusing on her emotional connection to her heritage and her hopes for bridging the cultural divide.

Score: 42/50

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 crowd gathered around in reverent silence as the intricate sculpture illuminated under the moons of Phobos and Deimos. ~~The appealing sculpture seemed to breathe ebullience into the air of Elysium;~~ [The mesmerising sculpture breathed life into the air of Elysium;] its convex edges capturing the moonlight in a breathtaking, divine manifestation. However, as grandiose as something could be, a flaw follows not too far from it. This sculpture had an anonymous crafter, and that usually meant trouble. Big trouble.

#2 ~~Engulfed in the shadows of the town hall, Minka eagerly observed her breath fragile.~~ [Hidden in the shadows of the town hall, Minka watched with bated breath.] The sculpture was hers, a blend of raw strength, pure love, and desire, meaning to resemble her absent father. She had used technology inconceivable to the mortal mind but strictly prohibited and banned in the yards of Elysium. Such an elegant tool with unbridled strength and power always had a fatal flaw. Especially since this one was constructed by the core energy of the Underground. The settlers had

banned tools like them centuries ago, deeming them dangerous to remain in use, although they had never truly understood them.

To the understanding of the settlers, the Chthonic Deities were disgraces; their culture drowning in lies and absurd myths. Minka was the last descendant of her kind, and she knew the truth. Her tribe created sculptures to celebrate the harmony and peacefulness of life, not destruction. However, she knew the settlers would never look at it from that perspective.

#3 As the mumbles grew louder and louder ~~cloaked spindly man~~ [a cloaked, spindly man] stepped forward and pointed at a symbol that was shimmering palely. The recognizable, unmistakable mark of the Deities. Awestruck inhalations resounded through the crowd.

"Who made this," ~~a stern voice broke through the silence sounding like a dictator ordering his soldiers.~~ [a stern voice cut through the silence like a dictator commanding his troops.]

Minka's heart pounded. She had wanted them to realise the potential of her tribe's beauty, but now that was at the cost of exposing her. Should she step forward valiantly and claim her deserved heritage or slink back into the overbearing shadows, leaving the truth lingering in the chilly air?

□ INTERVIEW

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph about cross-country): Strengths:

- Engaging personal anecdote about the cross-country event
- Clear connection between family values and personal growth

Weaknesses: Lack of specific impact → The description of how this mindset affected later life situations is missing. You mention "fight that extra round" but don't provide concrete examples of when you actually applied this lesson.

Exemplar: ***"This mindset has helped me push through difficult situations like completing my Duke of Edinburgh expedition despite the heavy rain, and leading my debate team to victory even when we were behind."***

#2 (Board Game Night tradition): Strengths:

- Warm, personal tone
- Shows family bonding through regular activity

Weaknesses: Limited depth → The response stays surface-level without diving into how this tradition has shaped your character or relationships. You mention "support each other" but don't show how this translates beyond game night.

Exemplar: ***"Through our weekly game nights, I've learned valuable lessons about grace in defeat and humility in victory, which have helped me become a better team player at school."***

#3 (Sister's inspiration): Strengths:

- Uses specific achievement (scholarship) as evidence
- Shows clear admiration and impact

Weaknesses: Missing personal growth → While you list qualities you admire in your sister, you don't fully explore how you've applied these lessons in your own life.

Exemplar: ***"Inspired by my sister's discipline, I developed a structured study routine that helped me improve my maths grade from a C to an A last term."***

■ Your responses would benefit from more specific examples showing how these family influences have directly impacted your actions and decisions. Try to include at least one concrete situation for each answer where you applied the lessons learned. You could expand your answers

by describing the lasting effects these experiences have had on your relationships and personal development.

Score: 41/50

Section 2:

#1 My family has shaped my response to challenges with a strong sense of resilience and support. Growing up, my parents always used to say to me, "However tough the challenge may get, you must persevere through it." At first, when I was young, I never really ~~instilled~~ [incorporated] this life lesson into my everyday life, but when I grew up, I truly understood the meaning. I learned this at my first school cross-country event. I was dying, my lungs burning, my arms weak, and my legs like jelly. Then I remembered what my parents had said. ~~I remembered thinking to myself, what was the use of trying it was only a school cross-country event.~~ [I caught myself wondering about the significance of persevering in a school cross-country event.] How would that affect my job or my overall life? To be honest, it wouldn't have done anything, but it would've changed my mindset about the things I do every day. Instead of quitting when I felt like it, I'll push that extra mile, fight that extra round, or be the last one standing with the winner's mindset. That's how my family shaped the way I approach challenges.

#2 One habit I cherish dearly in my family is Board Game Night every Friday. It's a simple tradition, but it means a lot to me. Every week, we gather around the table, ready to face off in friendly competitions. There's always a bit of teasing, but it's all in good fun. Sometimes I'm winning, sometimes I'm not, but it doesn't matter because what I enjoy most is the time spent with my family, the shared laughter, and the way we support each other, even in a game. These moments, though small, are some of my favourite and most meaningful of the week.

#3 The person in my family who inspires me the most is my older sister. She recently received a scholarship for her academic achievements, and I really admire her dedication and hard work. Growing up, I watched her push through challenges, never settling for less, and always striving to be her best. Even when things got tough, she never complained but just kept going and persevering. I've learned so much from her, especially about the importance of perseverance, setting goals, and staying disciplined. Her passion and commitment motivate me to work harder and believe in myself, no matter how difficult the journey may seem.